

1858

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stevens point,
wisconsin.....

CENTENNIAL

june 29 - july 6, 1958



Laying the first Cedar Block pavement on Main Street between Strongs Avenue and Water Street, July 31, 1891.

...1858

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of

the city of STEVENS POINT

*issued in commemoration of the
100th anniversary of the
incorporation of stevens point
as a city . . . may 17th 1858*



*prepared by
the portage county historical society
stevens point, wisconsin*

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SEAL OF PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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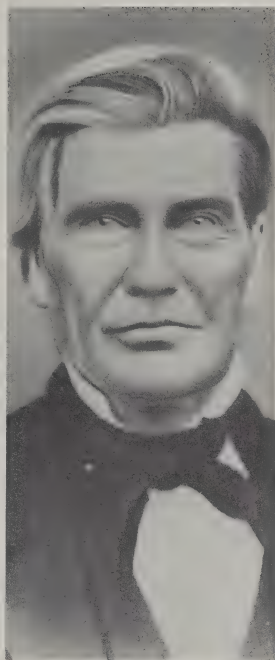
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1958...



Running lumber raft on Wisconsin River. Rafts were broken down to run over rapids and dams and then reassembled for further movement down the river. (Circa 1888)

BENNETT STUDIO



GEORGE STEVENS

Born on January 17, 1790 in New York state. Died in Rockford, Illinois in 1866. Although he had no permanent connection with the city, using the point on the river bank as mere stopping and storage place for his travel to the North, his name was ultimately adopted as the name of our city, Stevens Point.

One must stop for a moment to look at the spot where George Stevens had cached his supplies. Why this spot in all the 600 and more miles of the Wisconsin's length? You focus on the river itself and realize, as did these early adventurers, that the brawling, swift flowing stream, with its innumerable falls and rapids of treacherous "white water" was nevertheless interspersed with many miles of smooth water free from such obstacles. For a distance of sixty miles below the spot where Stevens had launched his dug-out canoe, Shaurette, Conant's, Biron's, Grignon's, and Whitney's rapids whipped the water into whirl-pools and foam; above and north for more than twenty miles one could paddle or pole a canoe to Little Bull Falls, now Mosinee. By land there was no trail to the upper reaches of the Wisconsin. The river, regardless of its moods, was the means of transportation.

The Indian Treaty of 1836 and the survey of 1839 opened the Upper Wisconsin to the woodsman, to be followed by the supplier, the speculator, and the pioneer women who were not afraid to face the rugged demands of family life in the new settlement. Stevens Point was at a strategic place. It became the "Gateway to the Pineries" and the supply point for the immense lumbering industry.

the saga of george stevens

George Stevens stood on the bank of the Wisconsin River. The year was 1839. The place was at the foot of Main Street in what is now Stevens Point, Wisconsin. A log canoe was pulled up on the shore. An indian whose name history does not record was loading in the last of the supplies to be poled up the long stretch of smooth water to Little Bull Falls. A rough shack housed the supplies that remained. Unknowingly, George Stevens had made history. Stevens Point was born.

From his portrait one can picture the rugged individual George Stevens must have been to make the long trek into this almost pathless wilderness. He had come to the Upper Wisconsin to check an amazing story of the wealth in pine that awaited the saw brought back by another bold and hardy soul who had made the trip three years earlier. George Stevens made his initial survey in 1838. The following year, with two ox teams loaded with supplies and accompanied by a Mr. Fox, he again made the rugged trip from Fort Winnebago following a trail which wound through the wilderness.



Curran House — Established in 1868. Was the leading hotel in the city for many years. Located at the N. W. corner of Main and North 1st Streets. It was destroyed by fire on February 21, 1909.



Jacobs House — The city's leading commercial hotel at turn of the century. Located at the S. E. corner of Clark and Crooked Way (West Ellis) Streets. It was opened in 1872



J. L. Jensen's Grocery — Located at 432 Main Street. (Circa 1915)



V. Betlach Meat Market — Located at 445 Main Street. Left to Right — Vincent Betlach and Emil Betlach. (Circa 1906)

Home Office of the Hardware Dealers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Wisconsin at Stevens Point from March 1, 1912 to July 22, 1922. Home Office of the Hardware Mutual Casualty Company from organization in 1914 to 1920 when it moved to the Opera House and the Fire Company took over the space formerly occupied by the Casualty Company. This building was located in the 200 block of Strongs Avenue. It was replaced by a new building today housing Home Office of the same Companies, now nationally known as Hardware Mutuals.

Laska and Yulka Saloon — Located at South Second Street (Circa 1907)



Tim-ber-r-r!

... the cry that signalled the beginning of the economic development of Stevens point

The Hon. George Cate, judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit, congressman, pioneer attorney and early settler, says this about the beginnings of Stevens Point.

"Prior to 1839, the river north as far as the side of the city of Wausau had been explored, its water power ascertained together with the feasibility of running lumber down the river in rafts, and the almost inexhaustable pine timber had become known. These conditions at the head of Shaurette Rapids made the location on the east bank a place of importance and led to the building of a village there. Supplies which were a necessity further up the river might reach this point from below by wagon or sleigh, but no further. From this point to Wausau was a good smooth river at any stage, for canoe or skiff, except a half mile portage at Little Bull Falls (Mosinee). Hence freights from below were unloaded at this point in summer, put in canoes made of pine trees, sometimes two lashed together, capable of carrying three to four tons, managed by two good men, and making the trip to Big Bull Falls (Wausau) in three days. Delays necessarily intervened incident to the change, necessitating storage in Stevens Point, to await boats to go above. Warehouses were built, the lumber business soon grew to large dimensions, more supplies were needed, hundreds of teams

were soon on the road. This point was at the end of land carriage and men and teams had to be cared for. Hence taverns and barns were built and the future city flung its flag to the breeze."

Government Lots 1 and 2, Sec. 32, Town 24 N., Range 8 E., Portage County were patented to Andrew Mullarkey, Sept. 10, 1844 and Nov. 26, 1844, and deeded by him to Matthias Mitchell, Jan. 6, 1845. In 1847 Mitchell laid out the first City Plat and had it recorded November 11. It included the area known then and now as the Public Square with its eastern boundary running north and south on a line with the east wall of 311-313 Main Street. In this small area the original city took shape. In 1847 the population of the village was estimated to be 20 families; three years later there were some 200 souls, said the Pinery of Sept. 11, 1856:

"The census is taken from a bona fide count at the door of houses — and not going outside of a mile from the flagstaff, the total population was 1261 persons. 254 buildings were counted, 180 of them being residences."

A quick glance at the business listed and the crafts and working skills reveals that lumbering was the backbone of the village economy, with the necessary retail establishments to cater to the needs of lumbermen and lumberjacks alike. See table below.

Lumber Establishments		Bankers	2	Mill-wrights	8
Saw Mills	2	Hardware	1	Land Agents	15
Sash Factory	1	Cabinet	1	Surveyors	4
Lumber Yard	1	Hotels	2	Carpenters	30
Service Establishments		Boarding Houses	4	Brick Layers &	
Blacksmith Shops	3	Breweries	1	Stone Masons	10
Carpenter Shops	6	Saloons	6	Painters	5
Harness Makers	1	Brick Yard	1	Blacksmiths	8
Dry Goods	9	Fanning Mill	1	Wagon & Carriage	
Clothing	2	Stages (Daily)	4	Makers	6
Boots and Shoes	3	Stages (Semi-Wkly)	1	Cabinet Makers	8
Millinery	2	Stages (Weekly)	2	Shoemakers	7
Jewelry	1	Livery Stables	2	Tailors	8
Provision	6	TRADES		Phys. & Surgeons	6
Meat Market	1	Lumber Dealers	25	Lawyers	6
Bakeries	1	River Pilots	30		



Red Mill — Built 1873, destroyed by fire 1896. Made staves for wooden pails and tubs — Also sawed lumber. At one time employed over 100 boys in the yard piling staves. Located on West Bank of Wisconsin River N. of Clark St.

Forty wagon loads of goods were reported arriving daily in Stevens Point in 1856 and the aggregate value of invoiced stock carried by houses in trade was estimated to be \$456,800, which excluded hotel and saloons as well as the very large cash capital invested in the lumber trade by men of Stevens Point.

The roster of lumber mills owned and operated in Stevens Point in the early days included the mills of Abraham Brawley, Merrill and Slothower, Knox Brothers, William Weston, Herren and Wadleigh and Moses M. Strong. Changes in ownership occurred during the 50 years that lumber was the basic product, but for many Stevens Pointers vivid memories may be recalled of the Owen Clark mill, the Wallace and Karner mill, Bosworth and Reilly, Clifford's, Week's, and Pfiffner's. In addition there were other various wood-working plants such as, shingle mills, box factories, sash and door plants which all contributed to the burgeoning economy. More colorful than the mills (though anyone who has experienced the fragrance of resinous pine from a freshly cut log will never forget its perfume) is the story of the log drives from the forest to the mill, and the rafting of the sawed lumber over the rapids and around the falls that made miles of the Wisconsin River both treacherous and hazardous. River pilots were "Kings of the River," and wages ran from \$5 to \$15 a day. Memorable names in annals of the river were Ed Metcalf, Orin Maybee, "Sailor Jack" Hawn, Horace Judd, "Big Oliver" Halverson, and Isaac Ferris. The latter died in 1862 and was buried on the west bank of the river opposite the Whiting-

Plover Paper Company where his lone grave may still be viewed near A. L. Tech Park.

In the early 1850's co-operative efforts were undertaken to govern the vast logging industry by an organization known as the Wisconsin River Improvement and Lumber Protection Company. A second group was organized in 1873 known as the Stevens Point Boom Company, which attempted to regulate the flow of logs down the Wisconsin river. John Clark served as the first "boom-master." Local business men subscribed \$50,000 toward its organization, and in 1874 the city of Stevens Point issued an additional \$10,000 in bonds to help maintain its operations as an earnest of the importance of lumbering to the community. As rotary saws replaced the old up-and-down saws of the late 50's the total footage of a day's cut was doubled. Statistics list the amazing volume that passed thru the mills and down the river to market and to people clamoring for lumber. Incredible as it may seem, reliable sources show 100,000,000 board feet of lumber produced in northern Wisconsin in 1858. In 1871, even though the railroad had reached Stevens Point, 200,000,000 board feet of lumber "slid through the sluice-way of the Shaurette dam at Stevens Point on its way down river".

Management problems were as severe then as now. Probably more men lost a fortune than made one, but to those who were successful great wealth resulted. Labor troubles were rare though an occasional strike made history. One such occurred in 1886 "when three knob sawyers employed in the shingle mill of Bosworth and Reilly struck for a raise in pay from \$1.75 to \$2 a day". "Needless to say", said the Stevens Point Gazette, "three new knob sawyers are now employed at the mill".

The years from 1850 to 1871 represent the stagecoach days in the life of Stevens Point. The four-horse teams brought the mail, the new settlers, and contact with the outside world.

There are very few who can still recall the past glory of Avery House, important in Civil War days, and its successor the Mansion House standing on N. Second Street where Frank's Hardware is now located. Both were famous hostleries, known throughout northern Wisconsin. So too, was Curran House, which occupied the site of the "Raftsmen's Home", later Phelps House, where the Copps Company is today located. The story of the Curran House is a colorful part of Stevens Point's past. The passing of Mrs. Henry Curran, a lovely and gracious woman, saddened many who had been received there as guests.

The Jacobs House achieved an enviable reputation for its hospitality, under the direction of Nicholas Jacobs and his wife. They came here shortly after their marriage in 1869 and opened a little hotel on Main Street just west of the present Montgomery Ward store. In 1871 they purchased the site on the southeast corner of Clark and Crooked Way (now West Ellis) where they built and operated their hotel until it was sold to the Stevens Point Hotel Company in 1921. Jacobs House was especially popular with farming interests in the 1870's and '80's where dinner — and what a dinner! — could be had for 25c. Hay for the horses was 10c extra and the barn in the rear of the hotel accommodated 50 teams.

The Public Square is unique in Stevens Point history and has played an important part in the city's development as a trade center. Its early history is a reflection of the civic, industrial, political and social life of the city. As the country became settled and farms developed, the cash exchange of produce brought in by the farmers for merchandise carried in the stores reached large proportions. In the early 1900s when potatoes were the largest cash crop in the country, teams unloading at warehouses and the freight loadings out of Stevens Point were extensive. According to the 1950 census, potatoes still accounted for 50% of Portage County's crop income. In the 1920s, the monthly market day on the Square every Thursday was not only a colorful beehive of activity but a valuable business asset. In addition to providing a flow of merchandise it accomplished much in establishing cordial city-county relationships.

One of the important agencies responsible for the development of Stevens Point from a straggling, backwoods town into an intellectual and civic center was, the Wisconsin Central Rail Road. In November 1871, with Daniel Phelps as engineer, the first train of railroad cars came into Stevens Point from Menasha. A throng was at the depot and the excitement was intense. "Hurrah for the cars of progress" was the shout as the train arrived.

Large repair shops were erected in 1875. In fact, for a period of almost 30 years the Wisconsin Central Shops were the most important single industry in the city. Employing 170 men, all the repairs of the rolling stock for the road was done in these shops. A huge, deep-throated steamboat whistle, 30' high and 15" in diameter, boomed out the opening and closing hours each day. It was the pride of the road and could be heard on a clear morning in Waupaca, 30 miles away.

Eight years after the Wisconsin Central entered Stevens Point, passenger tickets averaged \$2,600 a month. Freight added \$4,000 to \$5,000 per month more. Times have changed and passenger volume is way down, but quantities of freight still move over the old Wisconsin Central now the "Soo" Lines. In 1876, the Stevens Point to Portage branch of the Wisconsin Central was completed. Later, the Green Bay & Western completed the branch line from Plover to Stevens Point. Both of these branch lines for many years had an influential impact on business in "The Point".



Wisconsin Central (Soo) Depot — Located at the south end of Division Street. (Circa 1910)

In 1900 a blow struck Stevens Point that affected its economy adversely for a number of years to come. The shops and division point of the Wisconsin Central were moved to Fond du Lac and Abbotsford respectively. Public meetings, citizen's protests were of no avail. The money spent by both city and county to establish and develop the shops in the early years was disregarded. For the next ten years the vacant houses and slim payroll from the railroad lowered the buying power of the community. When the "Soo" leased the road in 1909, Stevens Point was re-established as a division point. The economic survey of Stevens Point, prepared in 1956, reported "that twenty-four hour switching service is provided and that twenty-two freight trains and four passenger trains operate in and out of Stevens Point daily. In conjunction with the Green Bay & Western, service is provided to the major distribution centers of the Midwest.

As the great stands of pine in northern Wis-

consin became exhausted, lumber lost its pre-eminent status in the community's economy, and power sites, formerly occupied by saw mills, became attractive to the paper-making industry. In 1891, the Wisconsin River Paper and Pulp Company, under the supervision of William Whiting, began the construction and operation of a mill at the head of Conant's Rapids which in 1910 was sold to Mr. Charles A. Babcock. It was operated as a newsprint mill until it was purchased by the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company of Wisconsin Rapids in 1945. At that time the paper-making machines were converted to the manufacture of coated enamel papers, a special product of the Wisconsin River division of the Consolidated which supplies national publishers, printers and industries. The Stevens Point division of Consolidated was established in 1917 when the site of the dam at Shauette Rapids was acquired and the mill constructed. The Stevens Point division produces opaque waxing paper primarily for bread and frozen food products. Its average production is 68 tons a day and is sold to converters largely in the midwest.

Another paper mill was established in 1891 known as the Whiting-Plover Paper Company which was founded as a mill for the manufacture of rag book paper. It commenced operations in July 1892 and in 1904 the product was changed from book paper to rag bond, ledger, writing and thin papers. In 1912 George Whiting discovered and developed the pure artesian water supply that is now such an important asset in the manufacture of high grade papers. It was also that year that the name of the company was changed from the Plover Paper Company to the Whiting Plover Paper Company.

Today the daily capacity of the mill is 30 tons of high quality paper every 24 hours, the quality of the product giving it an enviable reputation in the rag paper field, where it ranks among the national leaders. In addition to shipping throughout the entire United States the product goes to the four corners of the world, — especially Mexico, Central and South America and the West Indies.

The mill at the head of Conant's Rapids, now the Wisconsin division of the Consolidated, was long known as the Upper Mill — the Whiting-Plover at the foot of the Rapids, sometimes called "The Bloomers" was known as the "Lower Mill". To identify them thus today marks you as an "old timer".

In the 1890s also we note the beginnings of several of the industries that have been important

in the economic development of the city at that time and are still making valuable contributions today. Chronologically, beginnings of both the Nigbor Fur Company and the Lullabye Furniture Corporation occurred in 1895. A tannery was started by the firm of Mioskowski and Lukasevig in the summer of that year on the banks of the Wisconsin just above the railroad bridge. Michael Nigbor replaced Lukasevig in the partnership and by May 1900 the business was enlarged, the upper floor housing the finishing department where gloves, mittens and robes were made. From this beginning Nigbor Furs Inc. has developed into a state-wide organization recognized nationally as one of America's foremost designers and makers of fine furs.

On Oct. 29, 1895 a patent was granted to John J. Bukolt of Stevens Point for an ingenious device known as a "Self-rocking Cradle". It was the beginning of today's Lullabye Furniture Corporation. The *Journal* of Nov. 25, 1895 comments on the new device as follows:

"To the age of horseless carriages, incubators and advanced women, Stevens Point genius contributes an idea which will revolutionize the nursery, be a Godsend to this same advanced woman and more than bloomers or Browning, truly emancipate her from her thralldom New ballads will be sung of childhood days when rocked to sleep by the automatic cradle and soothed by the latest lullabies from a phonograph. This is a material age and sentiment must give way to convenience."

The word "Lullabye" has become an accepted term for high quality children's furniture and the company operates nationally. In addition it has been diversified and is making important contributions in the developing of the plywood industry.

As colorful as the story of the self-rocking cradle has been the story of the growth of the fishing tackle industry which has made Stevens Point the recognized "Fly-tackle Capital of the World". Back in 1896, Jack Frost, who made his own trout flies and returned from the streams with a full creel, was besieged by his friends for some of the flies he made. As a result he taught his daughter, Carrie, how to make trout flies, and thus an infant industry was launched. Operations in the family home at 403 Jefferson Street eventually became inadequate and other quarters were found. In 1920, Miss Frost sold her interest in the firm to a group of local fishermen and the name was changed to the Frost Fishing Tackle Company. At this time Oscar L. Weber was en-

gaged as manager, resigning in 1921 to start the Weber Lifelike Fly Co. which in 1926 was merged with the Frost Company. Interestingly enough, the grandsons of Jack Frost are today manufacturing Frost flies, having organized the G. W. Frost and Sons Company, Nov. 1, 1920. The nationwide scope of these organizations has established Stevens Point as the leading city in the Fishing Tackle industry.

The printing of calendars inaugurated the beginning of another local industry. In 1898 the Worzalla Publishing Company was formed by the late Stephen H., Sr., and Joseph A. Worzalla and a significant contribution has been made to the city's economy made by their National Book-binding Company organized in 1932. Designed to serve the printers of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois, its basic function is the production of hard case and edition-bound books. The present working force of more than 70 persons operates in a new plant at 1515 Jefferson Street, completed in 1958.

Prior to the close of the century, in October 1899, the Coye Furniture Company filed its articles of incorporation. In taking note of the fact The Journal lists the names of the stockholders in the new venture, of whom Alex Wallace comments "the above list would make a pretty good directory of business concerns in Stevens Point in 1899." The site and plant were eventually taken over by the Joerns Bros. Furniture Co., in 1917. Under their management a reputation for bedroom furniture of superior quality has been established. This firm also operates on a national scale.

In the spring of 1912 an event took place which, over the years, has possibly done more to improve the economic climate of Stevens Point than any other one development. The establishment, at that time, of Stevens Point as the headquarters of the Wisconsin Hardware Dealers Association and the Home Office of the Hardware Dealers Mutual Fire Insurance has brought profound and lasting benefits to the city. Rounding out the insurance program for the Hardware Association membership resulted in the establishment of the Hardware Mutual Casualty Company in 1914. Dominating the growth of these institutions and instrumental in their guidance was P. J. Jacobs, for many years secretary of the association as well as president. From small and limited Mutual Insurance Companies they have become national insurance carriers licensed in every state in the United States, handling fire, casualty and group accident and health insurance. The annual

local payroll has been a stabilizing influence in the business life of the city, and during the Depression of the 1930s helped keep Stevens Point in an enviable employment position. The close of business, Dec. 31, 1957 showed a total premium volume of more than \$88,000,000 with total assets of \$110,000,000.

There are more than 100 industries in Stevens Point, operating either on an area or local basis with a combined business volume which has brought a family buying power in Stevens Point to \$6,152 exceeding the family buying power in Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield and other cities of similar population. Aiding and abetting the business activities of the city are the two banks, the First National, which opened for business in 1883, and the Citizen's National which opened ten years later in 1893. Total deposits of both banks as reported in May 1957 were \$22,435,224.99.

Seven trucking firms in Stevens Point handle a large freight volume, four of them maintaining terminal facilities in or near the city. Several firms with limited franchises also operate locally. Located in the center of the state and being a terminal point and highway convergence, the city is served with 38 inbound and outbound busses daily to Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, Green Bay, Madison and points intermediate and beyond. This represents three companies — Northland Greyhound, Central Valley, and Seymour Bus lines.

In addition to the frequent bus service, North Central Airlines has 11 flights in and out of Stevens Point daily. They are direct connections with five major terminals at Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Minneapolis and Duluth.

Two "location factors" of importance have influenced Stevens Point, (1) the economic advantage and accessibility of a large water supply both on the Wisconsin River and the city water supply from the Plover basin; (2) many of Stevens Point's industrial establishments are "home-grown," that is, the owner was born and raised in Stevens Point, and the desire to live in Stevens Point has been an important "location factor." This community loyalty helps to explain the fact that fully 70% of Stevens Point's homes are "home-owned."

Alive to the needs of the city the Chamber of Commerce and the Stevens Point Committee for Industrial Development have keyed their activities to bringing in new business and assisting those already established to expand or diversify as circumstances require. Indeed, Stevens Point is "on the march."



Panorama of Stevens Point from old courthouse dome looking N. E. down Church Street. First highschool is in center background. Left of it is the Episcopal Church built in 1853, the oldest in the city. (Circa 1880)



Panorama of Stevens Point from old courthouse dome looking N. W. The large building in the left corner is the old Rink Opera House located at S. W. corner of Strong's Avenue and Crooked Way (West Ellis) Street.



South side of Main Street looking west starting at 421 Main Street. Note yoke of oxen at far end of street and old liberty pole in center of square. (Circa 1890)

Burning of the Clark Street Wagon Bridge on Memorial Day, 1923. Fire believed caused by a cigarette thrown on the oiled cedar paving blocks.



Old Courthouse — Judge George W. Cate held the first term in this building in September 1871. It was demolished in 1957 and replaced by a new City-County building.



Changing carbon filament — at the intersection of Michigan and Rice Streets. Note leather fly net on the horse.

North side of Main Street looking east from the square. Note old liberty pole in square. Erected for the first 4th of July celebration in 1853. First flag for pole was made by a group of local women. (Circa 1875)



Pinery Politics

... many strange turns in 100 years of political development

The Wisconsin Territorial Legislature on December 7, 1836, set aside the first Portage County. The area of the county was small and covered only the country around Fort Winnebago and the Fox-Wisconsin portage. However, on February 18, 1841, the legislature drastically changed the size of Portage County expanding it to an area about 50 miles wide, extending from the Fox-Wisconsin portage 200 miles north to the boundary of the Michigan Territory. By this action the "Upper Wisconsin" region was removed from Brown County and made a part of Portage County.

The first political recognition of areas within the county were the election precincts which were created for the convenience of its voters. In our area, the first precinct was "at the house of Abraham Brawley at Mill Creek." At this location Mill Creek enters the Wisconsin River on the north bank west of the present village of Plover. Any persons residing on the future site of Stevens Point voted at this precinct. The first member of the Territorial Legislature from Portage County was Abraham Brawley who took his seat in 1841.

The elections of 1842 produced the first elected Board of Commissioners for the enlarged Portage County. Among the commissioners elected was Andrew Dunn of Mill Creek. This board held its first meeting on April 20, 1842, at the house of Capt. Gideon Low in Winnebago Portage (Portage city).

New election precincts were set up, but the precinct for our area remained at Mill Creek except that it was to be at Andrew Dunn's mill. Election judges for this precinct were: Hugh MacFarlane, Peter Barnard and Solomon Story.

The elections of 1843 resulted in a new Board of County Commissioners, namely: Andrew Dunn of Mill Creek, Joshua W. Rhodes and Richard T. Veder. In 1843, the election precinct for this area was changed from Mill Creek to Plover Portage (now Plover) at the house of Gilbert Conant.

The southern part of the county contained the largest population, but by 1843 the heavy influx of persons into the Upper Wisconsin shifted the center of political power. As this northern population increased complaints multiplied because of

the long distance to be traveled to reach the county seat at Fort Winnebago. The legislature was petitioned and an election was held in 1844 to determine whether the county seat should remain where it was or be moved to Plover Portage. Many persons traveled to Gilbert Conant's house at Plover Portage to cast their ballots and balloting was also conducted in northern precincts of the county which resulted in a victory for Plover.

The Board of County Commissioners met for the first time at Plover Portage on October 23, 1844 at which time the need for a court house was first raised. A committee was appointed to look into the matter and on July 9, 1845, the board authorized the construction although it was 1849 before the building was ready for occupancy.

By 1846 the location of the county seat was causing problems for the residents around Fort Winnebago. The distance to the county seat was now as irksome to the southern residents as the reverse situation had been annoying to the northern population a few years earlier. The legislature, on February 3, 1846, cut off a part of the southern end of the county and created Columbia County which solved the problem.

STEVENS POINT

The April 7, 1847, records of the Board of County Commissioners contains the first recorded mention of a settlement called Stevens Point. At that time, the board created an election precinct "at the house of Matthias Mitchell in the town of Stevens Point." The board used the word "town" loosely as the town of Stevens Point was not to be created until a later date. Election judges for the settlement at Stevens Point were to be Matthias Mitchell, George J. Goodhue and William H. Johnson.

A state constitution was adopted on March 2, 1848. James Campbell from Stevens Point was elected to the first state legislature and attended its first session in June 1848. The new constitution changed the commission form of county government to the present supervisor system.

Adams County was cut off from Portage County on March 11, 1848 and Marquette on March 6, 1849.

The Portage County Board of Supervisors, on June 9, 1849, set up the first towns. The community known as Stevens Point was located in the Town of Middletown. Its first officers were: B. W. Finch, chairman of the board; John H. Winslow, Supervisor; Wm. V. Fleming, Supervisor; John Campbell, Treasurer; M. D. Harkness, Clerk and Assessor; Nathaniel F. Bliss, Justice of the Peace; Archibald McKelleps, Constable; George W. Kollock, Constable. A total of 21 voters cast their ballots in electing these officers.

TOWN OF STEVENS POINT

The Town of Middletown, however, was to exist only a year, for in 1850 the legislature created Marathon County, thus cutting off the northern part of Portage County. This required the County Board to rearrange town boundaries. On March 9, 1850, the board set up a new town to be known as the Town of Stevens Point. The supervisors further decided that "the seat of government of the town of Stevens shall be in the village of Stevens Point at the house now occupied by Hinton and Phelps." Again the county board was rather loose in describing the settlement of Stevens Point. Seemingly because of its increasing size, Stevens Point was referred to as a village by most people, but it was never incorporated and remained a town until incorporated as a city.

The first officers of the Town of Stevens Point, elected on April 2, 1850, were: Abraham Brawley, chairman of the board; Orrin Maybee and John B. DuBay, town supervisors; Enoch G. Bean, treasurer; James Holden, clerk and school superintendent; Matthias Mitchell, assessor and overseer of highways; Melancthon Wiley and Nathaniel F. Bliss, justices of the peace; Zelotus Hopkins, M. W. Fisk and Samuel S. Benedict, constables; John Phillips, sealer of weights and measures.

The election brought out 55 voters. The size of the Town of Stevens Point at this time is disclosed by the U. S. Census of 1850 as 458 persons. Of this total, 307 were male and 151 female, or a ratio of two men for every woman.

FIRST FIGHT FOR THE COUNTY SEAT

Stevens Point soon exceeded Plover in population and volume of business. This in itself created competition between Plover and Stevens Point and probably was the basic cause for later difficulties between the two settlements. The strained relations between the two towns came out in the open when on November 20, 1856, the county board suddenly voted to raise \$10,000 for a new courthouse in Plover.

However, Albert G. Ellis, editor of the *Wisconsin Pinery* at Stevens Point, taking issue with the county board, pointed out the effect of a \$10,000 expense on local taxes. Ellis made plain that the issues for Stevens Point were:

1. That the Town of Stevens Point was paying excessive taxes based on an improper assessment by the county board.
2. That if Stevens Point wanted to be the county seat, it had better do its utmost to prevent the spending of \$10,000 on the proposed court house.
3. That Stevens Point's inadequate representation on the board of supervisors was not commensurate with the town's population or with the taxes it had to pay the county.

It can be seen that the action of the county board in authorizing a new court house at a cost of \$10,000 was the provocation that was needed by Ellis to awaken Stevens Point citizens to several problems that had to be met. It was from this stimulus that action was started toward ultimate incorporation as a city. The efforts of the *Pinery* and the citizens of Stevens Point must have had its desired effect for the county board on May 18, 1857, rescinded its previous action on a new court house. However, the fires of civic enthusiasm kindled by the court house issue could not be quenched. The people of Stevens Point were coming of age. Nor could the *Pinery* let die the issue of inequitable taxes. The apportionment of the assessment as finally approved by the county board in 1857 disclosed the Town of Stevens Point carrying an assessment of \$288,850 against a county wide total assessment of \$731,881. The Town of Plover assessment was \$77,698. The equalization of taxes was attacked and the whole tax issue became so involved that State Senator Luther Hanchett of Plover submitted a bill to the legislature to straighten out the matter. It now became apparent that Stevens Point had an advocate in the person of Burton Millard of Wausau, assemblyman for Portage, Marathon and Wood counties. He defended Stevens Point interests by entering several amendments to Hanchett's tax bill.

STEVENS POINT BECOMES A CITY

About this time, Stevens Point efforts toward securing the status of a city had culminated in bill No. 530A being submitted to the legislature by Burton Millard. Thus Hanchett's tax bill and Millard's bill for incorporation of Stevens Point were in the legislative mill at the same time. The divided interest of Hanchett and Millard resulted

in attacks on the tax bill and the incorporation bill.

The bill to incorporate Stevens Point as a city was submitted to the legislature on March 20, 1858. It was referred to the Committee on Incorporation and reported favorably by that committee on March 26. The assembly passed the bill on April 17, and it went to the senate which passed the bill on May 5. However, a large number of amendments were attached to the bill by the senate. On May 6, the assembly concurred in all amendments but one and passed the bill back to the senate. On reconsideration, on May 10, the senate dropped its remaining amendment and passed the bill. It was then sent to the governor who signed bill 530A on May 17, 1858. The bill ultimately became Chapter 267 of the Private and Local Laws of 1858.

The act of incorporation provided for a mayor and a board of aldermen. The city was divided into three wards with two aldermen for each ward. Election precincts were also established. The precinct was at Bancrafts Hall in the 1st ward, at the District School House in the 2nd ward, and at Lloyds House in the 3rd ward.

One of the important benefits of the city charter was the fact that the city was now entitled to three representatives on the county board. The first election was held on June 26, 1858, and the following were elected as the first officers of the new City of Stevens Point: Mayor, William W. Schofield; Treasurer, H. B. Martin; Aldermen, Moses Perkins, Anson Rood, Valentine Brown, Seth W. Holmstad, A. G. Hamaker and H. Ferguson.

The new city council met for the first time on July 1, 1858, in the Old District School House. At that meeting the council elected the following city officials: J. J. Pine, city clerk; G. L. Park, city attorney; Anson Rood, president of the council.

Mr. J. J. Pine subsequently resigned as city clerk, and at its July 7 meeting, the council elected Chas. B. Curtis. The council also elected William B. Agnew as city surveyor and the following as street commissioners: D. R. Clements, 1st ward; Thomas Copp, 2nd ward; Anson Rood, 3rd ward.

By 1860 Stevens Point had a population of 1533. Of this total, 782 were males and 751 females, or roughly one male for every female.

STEVENS POINT WINS

By 1867 the issue of moving the county seat to Stevens Point reached the stage where a public mass meeting was held on October 22 to discuss the subject and set up an organization for the coming battle. Dr. Galen Rood was named chair-

man and John O. Johnson, secretary. At this meeting, pledges totalling \$10,000 were secured to be used "toward erection of a Court House and other County buildings in Stevens Point."

Ben Burr introduced legislation in 1868 requesting approval for an election to determine the location of the county seat. Plover opposed the bill strenuously, but it was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor on March 5, 1868. In the election on August 1, 1868, Stevens Point won the county seat by a majority of 340 votes.

The county offices were moved to Stevens Point, and pending the construction of the new court house, were located in what was then the Burr Building on Water Street. Court was held in the Curtiss Hall on the northwest side of the Public Square.

In 1871, the new court house was finished. The same year the railroad reached Stevens Point and its pioneer days, political and otherwise, were at an end.

CITY GOVERNMENT

In the beginning the County Sheriff was the chief law enforcement officer. Following the granting of a city charter in 1858, the city Marshal was given this responsibility. In April, 1883, the position of Chief of Police was created and James Bellinger, who was then Marshal, became the first Chief of Police. Since that time the Chief of Police has been in charge of law enforcement. The police department at first worked directly under the supervision of the council and mayor, but as conditions became more complex, a Fire and Police Commission was created. This commission of five members, appointed by the mayor, with the approval of the council, now exercise direct control of both police and fire department activities.

Always a problem, the maintenance of law and order in the last half of the 19th Century was especially difficult. Many of the wild west and bold adventure stories now depicted on the television screen could have been taken from the files of Stevens Point when the lumber jacks and river men made this city their headquarters between log drives and seasons in the lumber camps. To record in detail the cases of shooting, either in defense, or deliberate murder, or attempted murder would fill a large volume which might be named for a certain period when Stevens Point was known as the "Shootinest City in America." However, only one incident of extreme mob violence occurred. On October 11, 1875, Joseph H. Baker, the sheriff, secured a posse to execute a warrant for the arrest of Amos and Isiah Cart-

wright. The brothers were barricaded in their home in the town of Lanark and fatally shot Sheriff Baker and wounded David Kameron, a member of the posse. The Cartwright brothers were later arrested and placed in jail. There was intense excitement and much talk of lynching, and while every precaution was taken, on the night of October 18, 1875, a party of armed and masked men broke into the jail and took the brothers to a grove of trees near the present site of the county home. The next morning they were found hanging and dead.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The fire department began to function and like in all pioneer settlements went through a transition period from the bucket brigade where volunteers passed pails of water from one man to another, and the men at the end of the lines threw the water on the blaze.

The first pumping machine was put into operation in March, 1860. This machine was operated by 24 men pumping the water from the river or from large cisterns located at various places throughout the city, with the largest one on the Public Square. This first pump was purchased from the city of Chicago and is today on display in a Chicago museum. This pump was hauled to the scene of the fire by volunteer firemen who took great pride in being members of this organization. The first horse drawn engine was put into operation in 1877 and housed in a new fire department building on North Second Street, which is still used for this purpose. A second station was built in 1885 on Strong's Avenue and housed an additional pumper and hose cart. At first, the equipment was drawn to the scene of a fire by the first team that arrived after the alarm was sounded. On one occasion a team of oxen happened to be in front of the building when the alarm sounded and served in place of horses to take the equipment to the fire.

By 1923 horses were replaced by modern motor driven equipment, and it was a sad day for the "old time" firemen when they had to say "good bye" to those faithful horses with whom they had worked so well.

Many disastrous fires occurred when most of the buildings were constructed of wood and heated by wood burning stoves or furnaces. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were lost in these fires which consumed most of the churches, hotels, business places and many homes. Some of the most disastrous of these fires were in February 1858, when 15 buildings in the downtown area were consumed and much damage done to others; October 18,

1896, St. Peters Church and parsonage; October 24, 1915, St. Josephs Church; November 6, 1919, St. Stephens Church; August 1934, St. Pauls Lutheran Church; March 17, 1900, the Adams House at the site of the Majestic Hotel; February 21, 1901, the Curran Hotel at the site of the Copps Company; September 25, 1879, the Central Hotel at the site of the Dewey Hotel; August 2, 1916, the Old Seller House at Clark and First Street, were some of the outstanding churches and hotels that were lost thru fires. The high school at the present site of the City Hall on Clark and Strong's Avenue burned February 15, 1892. Many of the mills and lumber companies suffered similar disasters, and May 30, 1923, the Clark Street Bridge was burned. The most recent disasters were the Moll Glennon fire on Main Street, January 7, 1942, and the Lipman - American Legion Fire of June 11, 1951. In many of these fires there was a loss of life as well as property.

Today, the fire department, housed in two stations, consists of 1 chief, 2 captains, 2 lieutenants, 6 drivers, 1 pipeman and mechanic, and 5 pipemen. Modern equipment includes one 1000 gallon pumper, one 1750 gallon pumper, one aerial ladder, a ladder truck with a 650 gallon pumper, a hose wagon, and a boat for river rescue work. The department is rated as one of the most efficient in the state and on test runs has demonstrated the ability to respond to calls at the extreme limits of the city in less than 5 minutes from the time the call was placed.

MAYORS

Under the charter of 1858 the mayor and council type of government continued in effect until 1928 when the city manager plan was adopted, and continued thereunder until 1937. The term of office of the mayor and council members was for one year and later was changed to two years. The number of aldermen varied with the number of wards and is now 13, one from each ward.

During this century only one mayor — J. N. (Spot) Welsby was elected for more than three consecutive terms, although several mayors were elected, then retired and then re-elected. Many of these campaigns were hotly contested and often personal feelings of the followers of the different candidates developed much exchange of money in bets, or other pay offs such as being required to wheel the victor in a wheelbarrow down Main Street.

The period from 1919 to 1928 might well be termed the Welsby Regime in city government for during that time "Spot" demonstrated his ability to get re-elected and to run the city affairs,

in the opinion of some of his opponents, much as a dictator. However, many improvements in streets, sewers, the water system, and the high school occurred.

CITY MANAGERS

Many interested citizens began to study city affairs and felt that a change to the city manager plan of government would be for the best interests of the city. In April, 1928, the new plan of government went into effect with 5 councilmen elected at large — This first council consisted of E. A. Oberweiser, President, F. T. Derezhinski, L. R. Anderson, B. J. Dagneau, H. A. Vetter, and they chose H. W. Coleman as city manager. All other city officials were appointed by the city manager, with the approval of the council. Mr. Coleman served until January 1930, and upon his resignation Peter Walraven was appointed by the council and served until 1937.

It was during this time that the P. J. Jacobs High School was built. The city quarry on South River Drive was acquired, and from this quarry the stone was obtained for the Water Department Building, the buildings at Iverson and Bukolt Parks, the stadium at Goerke Field, the P. J. Jacobs High School and many other lesser construction projects — all of them as W.P.A., or P.W.A. projects.

END OF CITY MANAGER

Difficulties arose in city affairs and a strong movement developed to replace the city manager form of government with the mayor-alderman plan, and as a result of the referendum held in 1937, Stevens Point returned to its former plan of government. The first mayor under this new-old plan was Frank J. Blood, who served from 1937 to 1941, and this form of government is still in effect.

WATER

Following World War I, city building and expansion developed by leaps and bounds, and the demand for sewer and water service, streets and sidewalks, curb and gutter, made necessary a program which today has resulted in 75 miles of paved streets, 50 miles of sanitary sewers, 30 miles of storm sewers, 87 miles of curb and gutter, 53 miles of water mains, 76 miles of sidewalk, 215 acres in parks, 600 acres in the airport, in addition to the many buildings owned, operated and maintained by the city.

The first local water utility was built in 1887 for the Stevens Point Water Co., a privately owned enterprise. The plant, which was located on the Wisconsin River in what is now known as Bukolt Park, was constructed by Samuel R. Bul-

lock and Co., of New York City. John Holmes was chief engineer of the project and W. H. Fritchmon acted as superintendent of construction.

The original utility consisted of a steam operated water pumping plant (the building now used as a city garage), the old standpipe that we are presently dismantling, and approximately 9 miles of water mains.

Most of the water was pumped from a well near the river; however, during fires they did pump water directly from the Wisconsin River.

The property was purchased by the City of Stevens Point on July 1, 1922, at a cost of \$159,000.00.

During 1922 and 1923, the city developed a new water supply in the Plover Basin. This development consisted of a single well, a pumping station, two pumps, and a 16-inch water transmission line extending from the pumping plant to the city distribution system.

After the new water plant was put into operation during 1923, the old Wisconsin River plant was dismantled, except for the standpipe. At the time that the Water Company was purchased, they had 16 miles of mains and 160 hydrants that were providing water and fire protection service to 1,261 customers.

Since acquiring the utility property, the City of Stevens Point has made many additions and improvements, and as of this date, the department is serving 4,544 customers. The system has 3-wells, 5-water pumps, 57 miles of main, and 334 fire hydrants.

CITY-COUNTY HALL

In 1938, with the completion of the P. J. Jacobs High School and the regrouping of school students, the Washington School at the corner of Clark and Church Street was abandoned for school purposes, and the city offices, with the exception of the water department, moved into the building which has since served as a city hall. In 1957, plans were made and contracts let for a new joint city-county building at the cost of \$1,500,000, at the site of the old Court House, to house all branches of both county and city governments. This building, now under construction, is the outstanding example of the cooperative working of the city and county for over a century. Joint use of jail facilities, joint responsibility of the county judge, ambulance service, and enforcement of law and order have long been in effect, and no doubt in the years that lie ahead, Portage County and Stevens Point government agencies will continue to work together for the welfare of all.



Interior of old St. Stephen's Church, built in 1883. St. Stephen's was first Catholic congregation in Stevens Point. Photograph taken during Christmas season about the turn of the century.

The Episcopal Church which was the first church in the city. It was built in 1853 on the N. E. corner of Clark and Church Streets. (Circa 1909)



Backwoods Churches and Schools

... early struggles for the better things in life

OUR FIRST CHURCHES

The first church service in Stevens Point, led by a Methodist missionary, was probably held in 1847 at the "Raftsmen's Tavern" owned by Joseph Phelps at the foot of Main Street. Various denominations also held services in the homes of members, but the place most often used in the early 1850s was District School No. 1, built in 1850 and which still stands at 420 Clark Street.

The Protestant Episcopal Church signed its articles of incorporation on December 6, 1852, thereby becoming the first corporate church body in the community and the following year built the first church building at the northeast corner of Church and Clark Streets.

The First Congregational Church and Society of Stevens Point incorporated on August 15, 1853 and quaintly provided "that we select and use a dime for our common seal." On March 1, 1856 the First Presbyterian Society of Plover and Stevens Point signed joint corporate articles. Probably the last incorporation during the year Stevens Point adopted a city charter was carried out by the Baptist congregation on October 25, 1858. It was not until April 7, 1866, that the trustees for the First Methodist Episcopal Church were duly elected at a quarterly conference in Stevens Point and incorporated on April 23, 1866.

Roman Catholics attended the first mass offered in Stevens Point in 1853, probably at the District School on Clark Street. Out of this congregation grew the church known as St. Stephens which was eventually incorporated August 27, 1883.

The first Norwegian Lutherans probably gathered at the home of Joel B. Scott where they heard the Rev. Mr. Nils Brandt preach. It was not until the early '70s that their articles of incorporation were signed and out of this body grew Trinity Lutheran Church.

The year 1855 saw the Congregationalists at work on a church building which stood on the south side of Main Street in the 600 block. The Baptists, who built their first church in 1859 on the north side of Main Street, are the only ones who retain their original site among the several early church bodies.

SCHOOL DAYS, PAST & PRESENT

District School No. 1, not the first in Stevens Point but definitely the first tax-supported school,

occupies a unique place in the history of the city not only because it laid the ground work for our present system of schools, but because it once served as the political center of the old township of Stevens Point. This was the place of the "town meetin'," a heritage of our New England pioneers, where every man had a right to be heard after his own conscience which is the essence of democracy.

Miss B. McLaughlin served as the first teacher of District School No. 1 when it opened in 1850, using benches for desks and boxes for seats. In a corner stood the "pot-bellied" stove which devoured vast quantities of wood. The building is still standing, drab and weatherbeaten, at 420 Clark Street opposite the Wisconsin Telephone Company.

In 1847 about 20 families made up the little village of Stevens Point. To their parents, a teacher for their children was a first necessity. Peter Bangle, returning to Belvidere, Ill., to get his family and supplies, agreed to bring back a teacher if possible. In Belvidere he prevailed upon Miss Mandana Hale to take the job, as well as the job of driving a team of oxen with supplies in the caravan returning to Stevens Point. When Miss Hale began teaching, a collection was taken in the community to pay her salary. She later married Nathaniel F. Bliss and established her home in a building which Bliss had built and which is still used as a residence at 302 Water Street. Her first child, Geraldine, is credited with being the first white girl born in Stevens Point in 1849. She died December 26, 1907.

Supplementing the private and public schools in the community was the first parochial school started by the Episcopal Church which enrolled its first pupils on December 2, 1854.

An extraordinary development, educationally, during these "stage coach" days, was the establishment of the "Northern Institute," a boarding school for young ladies located at 702 Division Street. Frequently spoken of as the "Young Ladies Seminary," it aimed at bringing some of the cultural advantages found in similar schools of the East. The first principal here was Mrs. Clarrisa

Northrop who had four assistants. It was forced to discontinue at the outbreak of the Civil War.

By 1857, with the village of Stevens Point approaching a population of 1500, a special meeting was called for the purpose of raising a tax for a new school house, and out of this meeting grew the two-story frame structure built on Water Street (where the Lincoln School now stands) in later years affectionately spoken of as "The Old White School" although officially the "Union School." John C. Fremont Maloney served as the first principal. Following the city incorporation it became known as the Second Ward School for the next 50 years or so.

As the city population steadily mounted the school board was faced with the need of providing additional facilities. A white frame school of three rooms was erected on the northwest corner of Washington and North First Street in the 1860s and another frame building very similar in plan was built in 1871 in the Third Ward, later the Fifth Ward. It was the era of stoves, outdoor toilets, school pumps and kerosene lamps. Morning and afternoon recess were established institutions. Long piles of four-foot cord wood, which needed to be sawed into chunks, lined the school fences. Yet many graduates who attended these early schools have spoken with affection of their teachers and the impression for good which many of them made on their lives.

In 1876 the first High School was erected, also the first school constructed of brick, which stood on the northeast corner, one lot east, of Clark and Church Streets. Here the first High School commencement was held in 1881, five boys and four girls, who received their diplomas from the assistant principal, Miss Jennie Ferriss (later Mrs. Emmons Burr).

In 1886 the Grant School in the Fourth Ward was completed, and in 1887 the Jefferson or Fifth Ward School was built, as well as the first West Side school and another one "across the tracks," as its location was vaguely described, later the McKinley in the Sixth Ward. In 1892 the Garfield School was built in the Third Ward. On February 15, that year, with the thermometer at 30 degrees below zero, the first High School was destroyed by fire. Temporary quarters were found in churches and grade schools while plans were made to build a new building on Clark Street (now the Emerson School site), and in 1894 the first fall term began. In 1894 a new grade school was built in the First Ward and in 1897 another in the Fourth Ward. On February 21, 1899, the new First Ward school was partially destroyed

by fire and rebuilt the same year and since 1938 has served as the temporary quarters of the City Hall. In 1905 the "Old White School" in the Second Ward was condemned and was finally replaced in 1914 by the Lincoln School.

Athletics with a capital "A" were inaugurated in 1895 when \$100 was appropriated for gymnastic equipment. In 1896 the attic in the High School was used as a gym and in 1904, owing to parental objection for some and "others not standing so good in their studies," the football team was disbanded, but apparently revived in 1913 when the Fair Grounds were rented for football practice. Sprafka's Skating Rink, north of the Post Office, was rented for basketball practice in 1914.

THE COMING OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL

By act of the state legislature in 1891, the establishment of a sixth normal school in the state of Wisconsin was authorized which was to be located in the north-central part of the state. Several cities sought to have the school located in its own midst and among them was Stevens Point and its strongest contender, Wausau. At a meeting held in May 1893 a petition was heard by the board of education from 67 signers who requested that the city be empowered to offer the Third Ward site and school house for the Normal School. By a close vote of 5 to 4, the petition was approved. Meanwhile, Judge Byron B. Park of Stevens Point, a member of the state board of Normal School Regents, was instrumental in bringing the coveted prize to Stevens Point, and the contract for the first building, the middle section of the modern building, was let on Nov. 3, 1893. By the fall of 1895 the building was far enough along to permit opening of the first term and the school was dedicated Oct. 18, 1894.

The Board of Regents in 1901 authorized the construction of the West Wing, in 1915 the East Wing was added, and in 1929 the Laboratory School. As early as 1903 the Normal School was designated by the board to develop a special department to train teachers of home economics for Wisconsin schools. The practice cottages, named in honor of President John F. Sims, were built on the campus in 1915, but later removed when the new library was started in 1952 and completed in 1954.

Up to 1915 students accommodated themselves in private homes, but that year saw the construction of the first womens' dormitory, known as Nelson Hall after George B. Nelson, a member of the board of regents. This was followed later by a boys' dormitory, Delzell Hall, named in honor of Wilson S. Delzell, a local oil distributor

and long member of the board of regents, who died in 1957 and was replaced by Lyel Jenkins, a local attorney.

Theron B. Pray became the first president of the Stevens Point Normal School in 1894 and served until 1906 when he was replaced by John F. Sims who served until his death in 1926. During his term as president a number of new buildings were added on campus and two departments of the school were enlarged, namely the rural department and the home economics department under Oscar Neale and Bessie May Allen respectively. Sims was succeeded by Dr. Robert D. Baldwin who served until 1930 and was followed by Frank Hyer who retired in 1938. The next president, Philip H. Falk, remained only a few months before resigning to accept a position in Madison schools. Ernest T. Smith became acting president and received permanent status in August, 1939, but held the post only a year or so until his death in 1940. The vacancy was filled in October, 1940, by Dr. William C. Hansen, the seventh president, a position he still holds. He also has the distinction of being the first graduate of the school itself to serve in this capacity.

WISCONSIN STATE COLLEGE

By authority of the legislature, the several normal schools of the state were authorized in 1923 to offer the degree of bachelor of education and in 1927 the Normal School was designated the Central State Teachers College. Later, authority was also given to grant bachelor of science degrees. With the four year liberal arts program added to teacher training work, the college in 1951 was designated the Wisconsin State College at Stevens Point. The change in name followed growth in service and function. The two special fields offered by the college are in conservation and in home economics with preparation for teaching, professional employment or home-making. In fact, the college at Stevens Point became the first in the U. S. to offer a major in conservation. Students may also receive a bachelor of science in medical technology by completing three years of study and one year of training at an accredited school of medical technology or at St. Michaels Hospital.

Beginning with an enrollment of 201 students in the normal department from 25 counties, in addition to 165 pupils in the training department, the Normal School enrollment rose to 481 students from 57 counties and six other states by 1914-15. In the fall term of 1958 the enrollment was nearly 1400 students from 175 Wisconsin

High Schools, several other states and foreign countries.

P. J. JACOBS HIGH SCHOOL

In 1935 the city, rapidly outgrowing the facilities at the "new" High School (Emerson) on Clark Street, applied for a federal grant under the Works Project Administration to build an entirely new high school. The Common Council also appropriated \$25,000 for a heating plant as a relief project and by January 6, 1936, work was under way on the new P. J. Jacobs High School on east Main Street, named after one of its chief backers and president of Hardware Mutual Casualty Company. The beautiful building was completed in 1938 at a cost of \$515,307.19 with \$211,500 obtained under federal grant. This figure did not include the stone for the building, which was taken from the city quarry and worked under a separate WPA project, nor did it include the architect's fees.

One who spanned an entire generation of school growth and expansion in Stevens Point was Paul M. Vincent, superintendent of city schools from 1923 until his retirement in 1956. And to the members of the board of education, living and dead, it seems fitting to apply to them the words of commendation once expressed to one of their members, W. W. Spraggon, some 45 years in the past who "... in giving (their services) gratuitously to the public have forcibly expressed the great and unselfish interests which should govern all in the prosecution of a public duty."

Maria High School, formerly St. Joseph's Academy, is situated in the northern part of the city. The idea of establishing a Catholic girls' school originated with Mother Mary Felecia, the first mother general for the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, at the time the community was founded in 1901. The school was officially opened Sept. 6, 1922, for both boarders and day students. Up to 1958 more than 1,000 girls have been graduated from general, academic and business courses.

Ground breaking for the beautiful new Maria High School, which replaced the old academy, was held on March 25, 1956. Cost of this privately supported school was in excess of \$700,000. The building was used for the first time at graduation exercises in the spring of 1957. The Drum and Bugle Corps established at the school in 1942 has gained state-wide acclaim.

Construction of Pacelli High School for boys began with the ground-breaking ceremonies held August 1, 1955, at the corner of Division

and Briggs Street. It is a one-story structure designed for 400 pupils with 13 classrooms in addition to offices, auditorium-gymnasium and cafeteria. The first senior class to be graduated from Pacelli received diplomas in June of 1958. The school is staffed by Christian Brothers, an order of Catholic educators.

THE PAROCHIAL GRADE SCHOOLS

Paralleling expansion in public school instruction in Stevens Point has been the development of a city-wide system of parochial schools, mainly of Roman Catholic denomination. The first of these was built near St. Stephen's Church in 1873 and since known as St. Stephen's School. A new and larger school was erected in 1902 at the corner of Ellis & Pine Streets and in 1924 improvements were made to the building which, within a few years, again became inadequate. In 1932 a building of lanon stone construction was completed west of the church on Clark Street with eight classrooms, a music room, library and auditorium. An addition was made in 1958 and present enrollment is 485 pupils with a staff of nine School Sisters of Notre Dame and two lay teachers.

St. Peter's School, which opened in 1887, was first taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In 1895 it was taken over by two lay teachers and in 1896 by the Sisters of St. Francis. Construction of a new school was begun in June 1904, a three story structure of brick and stone, with eight classrooms and an auditorium, which were completed in May, 1905. When the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Julius Chylinski took over the pastorate in June, 1929, he succeeded in raising funds for a new building to be located on Fourth Avenue and

Third Street, as well as an auditorium-gymnasium which were both dedicated in 1932. In 1958 there were 798 pupils enrolled with a faculty of 16 Sisters of St. Joseph, T.O.S.F.

St. Stanislaus first school, erected in 1925, was an eight-room institution under the Sisters of St. Joseph, with an enrollment of 280 pupils. In 1949 plans were made for the construction of a new school which was dedicated August 19, 1951. The exterior of the new 16-room building is of solid masonry with a light textured red brick laid in natural gray lime cement mortar. Future plans call for a gymnasium-auditorium. The enrollment in 1958 was 616 with a faculty of ten Sisters of St. Joseph and two lay teachers.

St. Joseph's School, first a German language institution for private pupils, was built during the pastorate of the Rev. Father F. X. Stemper who came to St. Joseph's Church in April of 1890. In January of 1906 the new pastor, Father Henry Ehr, called a meeting at which parishioners voted in favor of a free school and by 1940 sufficient funds had been collected to start work. The enrollment in 1958 was 260 and plans are now under way to add a second floor which is expected to be ready for the fall term of 1958. Four Sisters of St. Francis and two lay teachers comprise the faculty.

St. Paul Lutheran Church School, which adjoins the church of the same name, was dedicated May 4, 1958, and has four classrooms, offices, library, and basement clubrooms. The modern version of the St. Paul school was begun in September of 1955 when class instruction was undertaken in the church basement under John Roth. Sixteen children in grades one to three enrolled in the first term, and by 1957 enrollment had increased to 34.

Blessing of the cornerstone for the new St. Joseph Convent, May 20, 1902 by Bishop Sebastian G. Messmer. This was the first convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis. Photograph was taken following the ceremony.





This was the original building of Stevens Point Normal, now Central State College. It was erected and opened in 1894.



Old St. Stephens Parochial School located at the N. W. corner of Pine and Ellis Street. It was opened in April 1873.



Old White School which replaced first District School. It was first used in 1858 the year Stevens Point was chartered as a city. It was located at the site of the present Lincoln School between Water and Elk Streets.



Mrs. Mandana Hale Bliss who established the first school in Portage County in 1847. It was a private school located at what is now 117 North Second Street in Stevens Point.

District School No. 1 — It was the first tax supported school in the city. It was built in 1850 at 420 Clark Street where it still stands as the oldest known building in Stevens Point. At the time this picture was taken it had been converted into a residence.



Grammar grade gym class of 1903 at State Normal School.





The original building of St. Michael's Hospital. It was opened in February, 1913. It is located on North Fremont Street.



Concert Band with the Don C. Hall Company.

Stevens Point Opera House.
N. B. Hackett — Manager.



Doctor, Lawyer, Actor, Chief

The first doctor in Stevens Point is almost a legendary character whose surname was Bristol but whose Christian name has never been suggested. He apparently served the early community from the mid-1840s until his death in 1848, the same year that Dr. John Phillips arrived to take up practice. Phillips was followed in the next decade by Galen Rood, Solon Marks, and John Orrick.

Moving to the frontier from the East, the pioneer doctor, usually called the "family doctor," held office in his own house and made calls on horseback and snowshoes over trails blazed by the Indians. His competitors were "Grandma" with her "Doctor Book," plus the traveling quack who came to town every year advertising cures for cross-eyes, crooked legs, tumors, cancers and corns!

Accidents were numerous, especially on the river, and from necessity the pioneer physician amputated crushed feet, set broken bones, and performed emergency operations in his office or on the kitchen table in the home of the patient. After the railroad came in the 1870s, surgical

... they healed the sick

cases were often sent to Fond du Lac by train — on a mattress in the baggage car.

After the Civil War the number of physicians in Stevens Point increased and two dentists arrived, namely, Jesse Smith and M. A. Haddock.

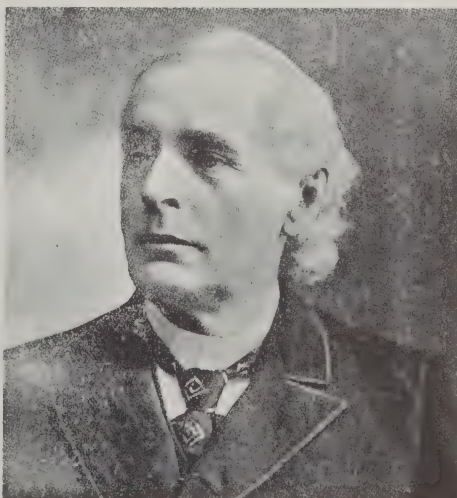
In 1885 Dr. A. M. Trevitt opened a general hospital which closed a year later, to be followed by two more private hospitals in the next 20 years, both unsuccessful. The Stevens Point Woman's Club took up the fight for a city hospital and a committee was formed consisting of 19 citizens of various religious denominations, headed by Dr. Carl von Neupoert Sr. Construction was started on a hospital building in 1911 which the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother took over when it was completed in 1913, and renamed it St. Michaels Hospital. In 1928 a new addition was completed and the medical staff enlarged to 15 doctors. The entire hospital was remodeled in 1950 and a north wing dedicated, making it one of the most modern in the state with a medical staff of 23.

In 1906 Dr. Thomas Hay established River Pines Sanatorium for T.B. patients and in 1917

Dr. John Phillips
1823-1903



Judge George W. Cate
1824-1905



sold his interest to Dr. John W. Coon. The sanatorium is now operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph who purchased it in 1938.

... they practiced law

In the Court House of Portage County reposes an obscure book known as the 7th Circuit Court attorneys' register which contains the signatures, beginning in 1844, of George W. Cate and 68 other lawyers who have served in the county and city of Stevens Point, the last one signing in 1954. However, even this register does not include a complete list of lawyers through the years.

Three men, whose names are not included, were contemporaries of Cate, namely, James S. Alban, Luther Hanchett and Miner Strobe who, along with Cate, comprised the original bar of Portage County. Of this "Pioneer Four," Cate was the only lawyer to move to Stevens Point where he continued in practice from 1876 until his death in 1905.

The early years of the city's history were also thin years for the legal profession. Many people had suffered in the financial panic of 1856-57 and on May 12, 1856, the *Pinery* reported that "sheriffs, justices and lawyers and the like are starving for want of business." But there emerged from these chaotic times another group of lawyers who began to practice in Stevens Point among whom were G. L. Park, A. Eaton, W. L. DeWitt, Thos. Mormon, John Delaney, J. W. Van Myers, B. L. Sharpstein, J. O. Raymond, and John Stumpf. Foremost among these was Gilbert Park, a district attorney for two terms in the early 1850s and in 1858 the first city attorney, subsequently mayor, and in 1874 circuit judge.

After the county seat was moved to Stevens Point, Judge Cate in January, 1870, held court for the first time in the new Court House. By 1876 there were 14 practicing attorneys in the county with enough lawlessness to keep them occupied most of the time. In March, 1877, the spring court calendar contained nine criminal cases, 70 cases for the jury, 16 cases for the court and one issue at law. In this formative period the unwritten law was "an eye for an eye" and a number of murders were acts of retribution. When public sentiment was strong in favor of the accused, it was not too difficult to gain an acquittal. During one period of eight months, three murders were committed in Stevens Point, two of which were acquittals, and one remained unsolved.

The first Court House in Stevens Point, razed in 1957 to make way for the new county-city

building, was the scene of many exciting trials in the 1800s. However, not all of the business transacted there was of a serious nature. On Oct. 20, 1888, the jury panel hearing a murder case became restive when it had retired to consider a verdict. One of the panel offered to wager \$5 to anyone who could run a mile in six minutes, using the aisles around the jury room for a race course. Challenged, one of the jurymen stripped off his coat for the race and with one of his colleagues keeping time, he tore around the course in less than six minutes.

But out of the events of the past, tragic and comical, emerged a group of men who influenced the development of government under law in the city.

... they cultivated the arts

As the city of Stevens Point grew, which meant more stores, more saw mills, more churches and schools, the artistic side of the people was not being forgotten. One of the first adherents of the Muse was Mrs. John Phillips who wrote under the pseudonym of Ada J. Moore and in 1875 published a volume of poems called "Under the Pines" which expressed the wonders of nature, the joys and disappointments of family life and the tragedy of war. She was much beloved in the city before her death in 1877.

Julia M. Tascher, an unassuming person who worked at the Court House, wrote a novel "Arbutus and Danelions," a story of the adventures of a family of children whose mother had gone away. It was first published in serial form in a New York magazine and came out in book form in 1883. The scene was laid in Stevens Point and its veiled references to the townspeople delighted everyone. In 1908 her mother, Elbe Merrill Tascher, wrote a narrative poem, "Story of Stevens Point," which describes the days of the frontier.

The Womans' Club, organized in 1895, did much to further the progress of the arts. The first literary program given consisted of original poetry, a reading, and vocal and instrumental music.

Schools gave added impetus to writing. Laura Mae Whitrock (later Mrs. James Corrigan) composed poetry and prose for "High School Life" which she edited. Many local residents contributed articles and drawings to this magazine of 1907. Several teachers at the teachers' college have

written text books, pamphlets and articles for educational journals, among them Dr. J. V. Collins, mathematics; Oscar Neale, art appreciation; E. T. Smith, history; Dr. F. N. Spindler, psychology; and Garry E. Culver, geology. Ernest Lilien, a long-time resident of the city, had completed part of an English-Polish dictionary at the time of his death in 1952.

Several local people have achieved national recognition in the arts, among them Katherine Southwick Keeler who began illustrating childrens' books in 1931. She also contributed to one of the Meadow-Brook Farm Series where she has Mrs. Twaddle, an old duck, talking in duck fashion, only to learn later that Mrs. Twaddle was a Muscovy duck, as revealed in her drawings, and Muscovy ducks don't quack!

Allan Thomas of Stevens Point also achieved success by illustrating childrens' books and is listed in the Midwest Who's Who. E. John Pfiffner, born and raised in Stevens Point, had a studio here and in 1946 executed the fine murals for the Hotel Whiting as well as the Elks Club. In 1950 he completed the murals in the main entrance of P. J. Jacobs High School and in 1953 illustrated "Real Book of Spies," one of a series of books for children. Copies of books by Mrs. Wheeler, Allan Thomas and E. John Pfiffner, are available in the Public Library.

The most recent follower of the Muse in Stevens Point is Alex Wallace whose many poems of "pinery" days and whose collections of "Stevens Point Through the Years" have evoked a continuous stream of memories and the appreciation of an entire generation of "old settlers."

... and early show business

Although the early settlers in Stevens Point were busy with their homes, new lumber mills and trades, they nevertheless brought with them from the East the same intellectual curiosity and appreciation of the finer things in life of their forebearers. It is not surprising to learn that in the 1850s singing lessons were already being taught in the little village and instruction in band music was being conducted at Judd's Hall. Debates on current affairs were popular and home-talent shows were being organized. One of the first stock companies, Older's Varieties of New York City, performed at the Pavilion in 1861, and a concert band had been organized by M. A.

Rousseau which, in 1864, furnished music for a ball at Curtis Hall honoring the "Pinery" boys going off to war. Curtis Hall was also the scene of a Negro minstrel show called "Jayne's Grand Variety" which gave a panorama of the Civil War in pictorial tableaux. Probably the first circus to play in Stevens Point was the Dan Coestellow Shows in 1868.

On November 24, 1873, McColloch Hall opened with a performance by the Stevens Point Dramatic Association entitled "Love in '76" which featured Hattie White, Irving Wyatt and Paul Weston.

The cantata of Easter, by Bradbury, was performed in 1884 by Stevens Point singers directed by L. F. Cole. Later the same year a chorus of 125 voices gave two performances of the operetta "Red Riding Hood's Rescue." In 1890 a play, "Deesrick Skewl", was given by 34 local people at the Rink Opera House, scene of many a social and artistic production, which was destroyed by fire in 1903. The building called the Opera House, later the Majestic and Fox theaters, was built by G. F. Andrae in 1893, and here many traveling stock companies performed including, in the 1920s, the famed Winner Players of Wausau, and a New York company playing "Abie's Irish Rose." With the coming of motion pictures, there have been theaters in three or four places, the longest running being the Fox and Lyric. Older theater goers recall the piano accompaniment with the "silent" movies, and later pipe organs, until "sound movies came in 1930.

Outdoor summer concerts by the city band after the turn of the Century were popular for many years, led both by Ernest Weber and Ray Jacobs. A bandstand once stood on the southwest corner of the Court House grounds where concerts were performed and politicians ranted at high taxes. After the bandstand was removed, concerts were held at the South Side Park and Bukolt Park.

The Men's Glee Club at the state college was organized by and has remained under the direction of Norman Knutsen for the past 25 years. This group sang at the New York World's Fair in 1939, and at the convention of the National Music Association at Miami, Florida, in 1956.

The Saengerfest, a German male singing society, was popular in the Gay Nineties and after the turn of the century. A modern-day counterpart is the "Barbershoppers" chorus and individual quartets of men's voices which attract large crowds with their sentimental ballads and catchy-type music.



Old Settler's Meeting — Individuals pictured are those who resided in Portage County prior to 1848. (Circa 1900)



Arch of Welcome — 50th Anniversary of Incorporation of City of Stevens Point — 1908.



Arch of Welcome — Saengerfest Societies Convention (German Singing Organization) June 10, 1898

Preparing dinner on lumber raft on Wisconsin River. Logs were sawed into planks at Stevens Point and other mill locations and moved to market via lumber rafts. Men slept in little shacks on the raft. (Circa 1888)

BENNETT STUDIO



The Melting Pot

*... people from many lands with
polish contributions greatest*

If, as has so often been said, Wisconsin is the melting pot of the nation, then surely Stevens Point must be the cross roads of that melting pot.

One reference says that during the period from 1845-1859 35% of the immigrants entering Portage County, were British; 17% were Norwegian; 11% were French Canadians and 11% were Irish. From 1860-1876 the immigration pattern changed considerably: 53% of the immigrants during this 16 year period were Polish; 21% were Norwegian; 9% were German; and 9% were Irish.

In Stevens Point itself, the first settlers were from New England and the Middle Atlantic States or the descendants of these people from neighboring states. They were generally called Yankees. These settlers came in as soon as Stevens Point was established by George Stevens as a transshipment point in his transportation of goods and supplies to the north. A tavern or hotel was built, a warehouse erected, and several homes established within a few years. Within a decade of the time Stevens had cached his first supplies for the north at the "Point" on the Wisconsin River, a dam on the river had also been built, and a general store and school had opened up. Practically all of this was done by down East Yankees and some Canadians.

This lead to the opening of a wilderness and the beginning of a lumbering industry that lasted for more than half a century, a work in which French Canadians, Irish and other immigrants later joined.

Along with this development of the little village, farms began to appear in the prairie sections and the woodland areas that were being cleared rapidly thus giving to the growing community a surrounding trade area. These early farmers were Yankees in the prairies and oak groves of southeastern Portage County, Polish in the sandy cut over lands north and northeast of the city, and Scandinavians in the hilly sections of the far northeastern part of the county.

Norwegians had settled in the infant city be-

fore its charter was granted and, by 1857, they were here in great enough numbers to gather for a Lutheran service conducted by the Missionary Pastor for Northern Wisconsin.

Although the first Poles had come to Portage County the year before Stevens Point became a city, records show that the first of the Polish immigrants to settle in the city did so in the 1860's. Fred Holmes, in his *Old World Wisconsin*, years later wrote, "Stevens Point is probably the most characteristic Polish city in Wisconsin. Rural Polish settlements make it the hub of their activities."

The Germans, who came in small numbers at first, became numerous enough to organize an *Einrachts Verein Club* in 1884. This group must have been a lively lot for the older Stevens Point papers frequently mention that the Germans had "another" big party with a lot of singing of old German songs.

Indians, the original inhabitants of the land, were also a part of the population in those early days, and in 1862. several thousand of them came to Stevens Point but left again the same night. This was part of a "big scare" in 1862 throughout the whole state. It was thought that the Indians were on the warpath once more while the men were away fighting in the Civil War.

Factories, railroads and shops hired many Irish, Germans, and Bohemians in the area.

July 4th celebrations in Stevens Point were colorful sights to see. Various nationality groups would dress in their "old country" costumes and parade through the streets accompanied with bands and singing. Then all would gather around the flagpole in the Public Square to signify their new allegiance to their new home, the United States of America. They were no longer Yankee, English, Irish, Polish, French Canadian, Norwegian or German, but Americans.

The population of the city is made up of many descendants of these nationality groups who pioneered here. Today a blended whole makes possible a city interesting to live and work in.



Repairing the original bridge of the Wisconsin Central Railroad over the Big Plover River on eastern outskirts of Stevens Point. Locomotive is a Baldwin of 1872. (Circa 1889)



Shortly after first railroad tracks are laid in Almond (Circa 1880) first trainload of logs moves past interested spectators.



Wisconsin Central Railroad locomotives with old wooden passenger depot in background at right. Trains were carrying a special shipment of nails to Spokane, Washington. (Circa 1889)

Soo Line telegraph crew at Soo Line Depot located at South end of Division Street. (Circa 1910)



Gazette newspaper office in 1900. The Gazette later merged with the present Stevens Point Daily Journal. The Gazette office was located at 320 Main Street. Left to right, Ed Glennon, Margaret Glennon and John Glennon.



They Got The Word

... *communications went from
dogsled to newspaper to radio*

Early communications in the pioneer days were by message given to some traveler or stage driver. The early days of mail service featured a winter relay of dog sleds. These relays were located about ten miles apart between Stevens Point and the northernmost counties. As isolated farms began to appear throughout Portage County the mail for them would be left at some designated cabin.

NEWSPAPERS

You don't have to read space fiction to be in another world and another time — Stevens Point of a hundred years ago. Gently-ever so gently turn the yellowing pages of the *Pinery*, the county's first paper published in Stevens Point. You want to take a stagecoach? Find out what men were saying in the taverns about the abolition of slavery? It's all there. As Donald E. Oehlerts of the State Historical Society says: "As the American pioneer moved westward from the Atlantic seaboard, the country editor with his flat-bed press, a few fonts of type and supply of rough rag paper journeyed just beyond the van. And thanks to these editors, the frontier was never far out of touch with national and international events. — Wisconsin, not yet a territory and not yet shed of its fur trade ways, had its first newspaper in 1833, the Green Bay **INTELLIGENCER**."

It was easy to start a newspaper in pioneer days, and they died easily, too. In contrast to the large sums necessary for even the small daily of today, the early weeklies needed only a few hundred dollars and some strong opinions to be in business. Some were started to support state rights, some the new Republican party, others for the Democrats, still others for land or lumber interests.

The little press on which the first issues of the *Pinery* were printed can be seen at the Stevens Point Library. It and its fellows, though small, probably exerted more influence proportionately on their readers than the big dailies of today. It was an era of strong opinions among people stout enough to come to a frontier. Editorials did not hesitate to be strong.

To anyone looking through the newspaper files



Portage County's first newspaper, the *Wisconsin Pinery*, was printed on this Washington hand press on the 14th of January, 1853. This press was brought by team from Oshkosh, where, records indicate, it had been used to publish the first newspaper in Oshkosh, the *True Democrat* in 1849. This press is believed to be about 160 years old.

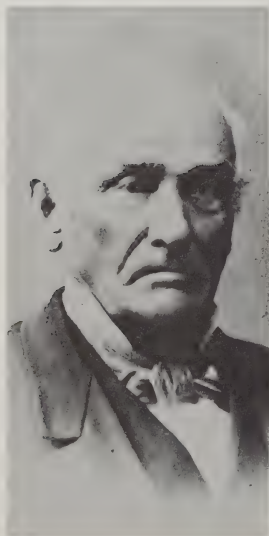
at the Central State College Library, the most noticeable characteristic of the early papers is the little space devoted to what is known as "local news" and the great attention to national, international and regional news. But whatever the news, the paper's attitude on it was seldom in doubt.

The Green Bay *Intelligencer* was founded by A. C. Ellis, the man who came to Stevens Point, started the *Pinery*, and was prominent in affairs of this area for many years. As the area developed many another paper started. Here are brief notes about them including the foreign language press. The papers are listed in the order in which they were first published.

January, 1853 - *Wisconsin Pinery* - (Weekly)

This first newspaper of Portage County was founded by A. G. Ellis and edited by him. It was published in Stevens Point. In November, 1857, it was purchased by Caleb Swayze with Ellis continuing as editor until August, 1859. It was then taken over by Gilbert L. Park in January, 1861 and continued by him until 1894. In later years

General Albert G. Ellis — He started the first newspaper in Stevens Point in January, 1853, called the *Wisconsin Pinery*. He came to the city as the receiver for the new land office established in 1852. He was also the second Mayor of the city following Dr. William Schofield in that office. His title came from the fact that he was the Surveyor General for the Wisconsin Territory.



it supported the Republican party.

March, 1861 - *Wisconsin State Rights* - (Weekly)

This paper was originally founded at Monroe, Wisconsin by N. L. Stout in 1859. He moved it to Stevens Point in March, 1861. It suspended publication in November of that year when Stout enlisted in the Union army. The paper advocated state's rights, tariff for revenue only, and the interests of labor.

July, 1856 - *Plover Herald* - (Weekly)

This paper is listed with Stevens Point papers because of its influence in early days on the Stevens Point vicinity. It was founded by James F. Alban and conducted by him until May, 1856. It was then taken over by H. G. Ingersoll and D. H. Pulsifer. In July, 1860, Stephen H. Alben associated with the paper. In February, 1861, it was consolidated with the Portage County *Republican* and was published by A. J. Lawson under the name *Stanton Times and Republican*. In July, 1863, it became the *Plover Times*. In 1864, it was purchased by A. O. Brown and then in May, 1870, by H. C. Ingersoll, who continued it until it ceased publication in October, 1881. *Republican*.

December, 1863 - *Wisconsin Lumberman* - (Weekly)

Established by F. H. Stout, it was published by him in association with L. D. Conery. However, Conery dropped out after a short time, and Stout continued the paper until 1868. *Republican*.

March, 1870 - *Point* - (Weekly)

This paper was started by E. B. Northrop and continued by him until December, 1871. It was then conducted as the *Stevens Journal* (see below).

January, 1872 - *Stevens Point Journal* - (Weekly until October, 1895; then daily except Sunday)

This paper was the successor to the *Point*. It was conducted until 1873 by E. B. Northrop (at first with L. D. Conery). In 1873, it was taken over by Edward McGlachlin in partnership with T. J. Simons. In 1893, Simons dropped out. In 1895, the paper became a daily. In its earlier years, the paper was listed as *Republican*.

June 1, 1873-1874 - *Sensation* - (Monthly)

Editors were known as "Slim Jim" and "M. Quad."

July, 1878 - *Portage County Gazette* - (Weekly until 1885)

Founded by Ed D. Glennon, H. W. Lee and William Krembs, the paper's first editor was H. W. Lee. It was conducted by the partnership until January, 1880, when Clay C. Cooper replaced Krembs, remaining with the paper until 1883. It

was consolidated with the **Stevens Point Journal** in April, 1919. The paper's political sympathies ranged from Independent until 1880, then Republican until 1888 at which time it became Democratic.

February, 1879 - **Hungerford's Real Estate Journal** - (Monthly)

This monthly paper was devoted to the land interests of Stevens Point and vicinity. It ceased publication in July, 1886.

February, 1880 - **Stevens Point Democrat** - (Weekly)

This paper was founded and edited by H. W. Lee after he left the editorship of the **Gazette**. It ceased publication in July, 1885.

November, 1884 - **Wisconsin Eagle** - (Weekly)

This was the final publishing venture of A. G. Ellis who had previously founded **The Pinery**. It ceased publication in November, 1885, because of the illness of General Ellis.

1894-1896 - **Wisconsin State Press** - (Weekly) also **Stevens Point Press**

Editors were: first Olus Bendixon, for two months, then Mrs. Anna E. Clark, then Flanders and McIntyre, who changed the title to **Stevens Point Press** in 1894.

March 22, 1935 - April 1, 1938 - **Central Wisconsin Herald** - (Weekly)

Edited by W. S. Worzalla.

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS

In the final years of the last century, Stevens Point's foreign language press began an influence that has been felt throughout the state and nation. To quote one authority, "One of the most distinctive features of Wisconsin's history has been the foreign language press . . . as a device to inform immigrants about their adopted country and to aid in assimilating them into a new culture, the newspaper printed in their own language helped to do for the first generation what the public school did for their children."

1872-1874 - **NIEDZIELA** - (Sunday)

Published and printed by Rev. Joseph Domrowski.

1892-1899 - **Stevens Point Post** - (Weekly)

This was a German language paper, edited by Stephen von Szinuen until 1893, then by Julius H. Gerlich.

1891 - to date - **ROLNIK** - (Plowman)

For farmers in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Upper Michigan. This paper was edited and published by Zygmunt Hutter and Teofil Krutza. About 1901 it was bought by Worzalla Brothers.

1908 - to date - **GWIAZDA POLARNA** - (Northern Star)

Published by Worzalla Brothers. A weekly with national circulation of 18,000. Its circulation covers the U.S.A., Canada and some foreign countries. Adam Bartosz has been the editor since 1937. 1930-1936 - **JASKOLKA** - (Swallow)

Editor, Bronislaw Wrotnowski. Published by Worzalla Publishing Company, it was an illustrated monthly magazine.

1938-1940 - **SLONECZKO** - (A Little Sun) - (Weekly)

Edited by Stanley Grzybowski and published by the Worzalla Publishing Company. It was a magazine for children.

TELEPHONES

The date of the first telephone in Stevens Point, according to the newspaper account at the time, was November 15, 1879. The phone company places it as 1882. According to the contemporary account in the paper, the first phone in public use here was at the drug store of Spaulding and Cadman. The paper said, "The telephone line between the Cadman drug store and Wisconsin Central freight depot is now in successful operation. Terms will be ten cents for single message and answer or five dollars for a year."

According to the local telephone company, the telephone first made its appearance in Stevens Point in 1882, just six years after its invention by Alexander G. Bell. In September, 1882, the first telephone switchboard was established in the Mitchell Building, 319 Main Street. There then were 55 telephones in use here. The first manager was Boardman Carey Spaulding and the first operator Isa G. Macbrien. The initial long distance telephone circuit, connecting Stevens Point with Appleton, was in use in 1887, the Stevens Point terminal being Krembs Brothers hardware store.

In 1904 the common battery system was installed here, replacing the handcranking magneto instruments. The switchboard then was located in the Kuhl Building at 401 Main Street. In 1924, construction work was started on a new telephone building for Stevens Point at 425 Clark Street, the present quarters of the telephone company here. A year later, the structure was completed and in service.

Growth in the number of telephones at Stevens Point was gradual during the first 63 years of its history, from 1882 through World War II. There was a total of 3,400 telephones in service at the end of 1945. However the number of telephones in use has increased tremendously to the present 8,550 telephones.

Telephone usage here also is at an all-time

peak. Stevens Point telephone users today are placing an average of nearly 39,000 local calls a day, compared to 19,000 in 1945 and an average of some 1,800 long distance calls a day compared to less than 600 ten years ago.

RADIO

In March, 1924, Stevens Point got its first public radio transmitter when the 500 watt WLBI state station was moved here from Waupaca. The transmitter was on top of the Hotel Whiting with the first studio in the basement of the hotel. Later the studio was removed to the penthouse. Still later, the studio was removed to the Fox Theatre building on Main Street and then to the Central State College Laboratory School Building. Because of transmitting difficulties the tower was placed at the village of Ellis near Highway 66. The station was under the management of Frank Calvert who retired in 1951. By 1948, the power had been increased to 500 watts. In July, 1950, because of inability to get maximum broadcast strength, attributed to soil conditions, the transmitter was placed near Auburndale. A little later the studio was removed to Auburndale.

WSPT, a commercial radio station, began operations in September, 1948. Begun by Evans Radio Corporation, it was taken over by a new company, the Stevens Point Broadcasting Corporation, in August, 1952. Peter A. Barnard is president. The station, with 250 watt power, is what is known as a "daytimer." As this goes to press, it is expected its power will be increased to 1000 watts.

WFHR, a commercial AM radio station based at Wisconsin Rapids, set up a Stevens Point studio December 15, 1940. Burt Mulroy was the first manager. The studio at first was above the Fox Theatre. In the summer of 1945 the studio was removed to 328½ Main Street. Actual broadcasting was from a transmitter at Wisconsin Rapids, with the Stevens Point unit connected by telephone. FM facilities were added in 1947 by WFHR. Both AM and FM are presently authorized at 250 watts.

TELEGRAPH

Stevens Point first appeared as a new telegraph office in the company's tariff bureau semi-monthly circular of June 1, 1873. The office was established by the Western Union Telegraph Company. It can be assumed that the office was located in the station of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste Marie railroad, then the Wisconsin Central.

Wisconsin had enjoyed 18 years of telegraph service prior to the establishment of the office at Stevens Point, since its first telegraph company

was incorporated by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1855. Western Union entered the telegraph picture in this state in 1871, when a contract of mutual alliance with the locally established Northwestern Telegraph Company was signed.

LIBRARIES

The American passion for education and culture which flowed westward during the 1830's and 1840's was reflected early in the life of the frontier village of Stevens Point. In the very first year of the Wisconsin Pinery (1853) we find that a "Stevens Point Lyceum" and a book store had been established and, in 1856, the editor urged the organization of a central library. By the charter year there were at least three places where books could be purchased. Through these popular agencies, the tides of intellectual activity and vigorous publishing that characterized the early Victorian years rolled into Stevens Point with every post-stage in the form of newspapers, journals, and books.

Lending libraries were attempted during the late '50's and early '60's and apparently were beset with a problem common to libraries for, in 1861, there was posted a notice from one Peter Gordon, Librarian, appealing "to those having books belonging to the Stevens Point Library to return them immediately."

The district school library was meeting some community library need but not effectively. In the Pinery of 1862 the city was notified that this community library had "finally found a resting place" in the hands of Mr. Maloney, the beloved rubicund principal of the district school (the little White School). The editor hailed the place as "eminently a proper one" and asked all persons having books to return them to Mr. Maloney as early as possible and that "considering the wanderings of the library hitherto, nothing will be said about fines if the books are now returned."

In late 1864, the editor of the Pinery expressed the need for a central library in this practical statement, encouraging the establishment of a book club in the manner of similar organizations in England: "...a number of young folks of both sexes agree to contribute towards the maintenance of a public room in which is placed a library for mutual circulation, the volumes generally contributed by the members. Now, by this device duplicate volumes, which are a waste of money, are avoided, and by appointing a sound literary man, as a purchasing agent in New York, by whom the selecting can be made from time to time, a choice and valuable general library can be easily established at a very low rate of cost,

containing works which a private individual would seldom if ever possess. Once started, it will roll into magnitude with amazing celerity and gradually become a popular institution."

This probably marked the birth of the Stevens Point Association Library which was to give community library service on a subscription basis for the thirty years before the advent of the Stevens Point Public Library.

By 1887, when this association library was entrusted to the Board of Education, the record shows it had acquired more than 2000 volumes. In that year the library was moved to the high school which then stood on the present city hall site. In 1892 fire destroyed the high school and more than half of the volumes in the library. Beyond newspaper notes all records of this library have disappeared except for the records of the Board of Education during the short period of its custody. An elite institution, charging an annual \$3.00 membership, the association library flourished in the 1870's but that it declined in the 1880's is indicated by many notes in the newspaper urging patronage and by the reduction, in 1885, of the membership fee to \$1.00. In 1891, a notice deploras the inadequacy of the "only sources of revenues, fees and fines . . . so few, few books have been added this year . . . if there were 100 more members as there should be . . ."

A reading room on Main Street did flourish in the 1880's. The editor applauded the ladies' energy in establishing a reading room at Mrs. Parmenter's Ice Cream Room in the summer of 1885 and by November it was hailed as a marked success under Mrs. French's charge . . . "Give the average boy something to read and he is out of danger." Mrs. Parmenter's Reading room was a "free" reading room open in the late afternoon, for the young, and in the evening for the older people, "as accommodations were limited." The committee notes a contemporary problem . . . "we are very thankful for the patronage we have received . . . it is not for our especial good that we are working, but hope to benefit others. We are especially pleased at the interest manifested by the children and their extreme good behaviour in most every instance . . . in the rooms, and we cordially invite those boys to come in, that usually stand outside and spit tobacco juice on the door and windows — we prefer to be at peace with them and to entertain them royally."

Mrs. Parmenter's later became the W.C.T.U. Reading room which continued under that organization's very active custody well into the 1890's. The Stevens Point Journal records that

Mrs. Owen Clark, in 1894, applied to have the public library (since the fire, now stored above Cadman's Drug Store) transferred to the W.C.T.U. This, Mrs. Clark later denied.

In the year 1895, distressed by the fact that the remains of the association library had been idle in storage for more than two years, and spurred by the successful establishment of the State Normal College, Stevens Point's cultural circles were mortified by the absence of a public library. On May 11, 1895 The Stevens Point Daily Journal devoted a front page to the drive for a free library. A goal of \$2500 had been set, but after six months campaign, the committee acknowledged that \$1,000 was the limit, and the first free library came into being in the rooms above Taylor's Drug Store (now Holt's) on Strongs Avenue. Miss Frances Catlin was the first librarian, and with the aid of instructors from the Normal College in the selection of books the public library proved strong, met a real need and within a decade the city was ready for a fully established public library.

Dr. F. A. Southwick applied to the Carnegie Foundation in 1902 for a grant to construct a library building and, in 1904, the present domed structure was erected at the cost of \$21,000. The Stevens Point Women's Club had applied itself vigorously to good purpose and had secured \$5,000 for the purchase of the land. Courageously and wisely (with the experience of the success of the business district locations in contrast to the failure of the school-housed library as example) the prominent corner location at Strongs and Clark was selected.

The story of the rise of the Stevens Point Public Library has been related by Mrs. E. H. Mortensen, and printed in the Stevens Point Daily Journal at the time of the library's golden anniversary in 1955. It is a story of nurturing and mothering by the Women's Club through the years. Stevens Point has been fortunate in having three special libraries give co-operative community service since that day: the Portage County Bar Association Library; the Hardware Mutuals Library and the Central State College Library. The College Library also secured custody of a federal documents depository and, in co-operation with the Wisconsin State Historical and Portage County Historical Societies, was appointed a regional and county depository of historic records and materials.

With these many sources of reading and information at its disposal, Stevens Point and Portage County will be well served.



Steam pleasure launch used on Wisconsin River out of Stevens Point.
(Circa 1880)



First car purchased for use in Stevens Point. It is an electric model.
Owner and date unknown but believed to be in early 1900's.



Columbus Day parade of 1892. The horses are being ridden by
the local police force. Picture was taken in the 200 block of
Division Street.



Circus parade in 400 block of Main Street. (Circa 1885)



Skating on the old slough. (Circa 1890)



Bandstand located on old courthouse grounds. Weekly band concerts
were held there. (Circa 1908)

Eintrochts Verein — German singing society composed of local
citizens. Note attire of the day. (Circa 1885)



Singing School of Methodist Church in 1890's. Note the costumes.

Swing Your Partners! . . .

. . . recreation in the early days took many forms



Race track at Fairgrounds now occupied by P. J. Jacobs Highschool. The District fairs were held here for years until competition from the automobile forced its closing sometime before 1920. (Circa 1911)

Recreation as such was not organized 100 years ago. Each season brought recreational things for children and adults. There were dances and wedding parties. There were celebrations on feast days. In the winter there was skating on the ice ponds and sliding down hill. In the schools there were spell downs and singing groups. At the end of the school year concerts and programs were given. Amateur theatricals were held and admission charged. The first school bell in the city was purchased with money so earned.

People made their own entertainment as the settlement grew into a city, and in the years of its development, many of the things they did and enjoyed became traditional. One of these traditions was the Fourth of July celebration. The Wisconsin Pinery of June, 1953, describes the plans for these celebrations, and states that the ladies saw that it was organized. The order of ceremonies shows a program with prayer, reading of the Declaration of Independence, an oration and singing. A dinner, which was really a picnic, was held after the program, and many were the toasts to the Day, the celebration, the ladies who had organized the program, and to the United States and its government. The idea had caught. The Pinery, the next year, devoted a large space to the Celebration on the 4th of July, and so it continued through the years - from the little town to the chartered city.

Mid-winter brought another traditional recreation in those early days. On New Year's Day calls were made. However, the calls seem mostly to have been made by the gentlemen of families, for quoting the Pinery, December 23, 1854, "The ladies remain at home to receive the calls and register their friends for the year. Tables are

Skating on Wisconsin River north of the old Wagon Bridge. Week's Mill in the background. (Circa 1905)



spread with cold collations of turkey, chicken, tongue, cakes, confectionery, nuts, raisins, fruits, etc. and the best of Mocha coffee and chocolate is served."

Steamboat rides on the river were an added recreation for both old and young. Sometimes the trip up the river was made up of a large party intent on a day of pleasure. One Pinery item tells of 100 passengers going up river 16 miles to Wylies (a landing or stop on the way to Little Bull Falls) for the day. Music and dancing "beguiled" the time. Mr. Wylie was prepared for them, and a dinner and refreshments were served. The return trip was started at 5 p.m. The scenery was described as beautiful.

Roller Skating became popular at the great roller skating craze of the middle 1880's reached Stevens Point. A mammoth rink was proposed with the skating surface to be 75 x 186 ft. or 13,950 sq. ft. Galleries on the sides were planned, and one end was left for a band stand. This building, the Central City Rink, was opened to the public on April 8, 1885, and it was estimated that more than 400 were "rolling" at one time. The building was located on "Crooked Way," the corner occupied today by Gulliksons. This ushered in a new era of entertainment, but in time it died out, and the building became known as the Central City Opera House where large gatherings, public meetings and dancing parties were held in the '90's. Such forms of entertainment as those provided by stock companies, negro minstrels, and home talent shows were popular. The building burned on May 9, 1903. During the years before the turn of the century the city had not been without some place in which to hold public entertainment. These in turn had been, Curtis Hall, McCulloch Hall, the Rink Opera House, and finally the Opera House built in 1893, still standing today and used as the Fox Theatre.

A Wheelman's Club was founded in 1893. Bicycling had become important not only as a method of transportation but also as a recreation. There were bicycle paths all over the county, and races held during summer evenings would see hundreds of people out on bikes. The late L. R. Anderson, prominent for many years in city affairs, was the first president of this club. A uniform was adopted consisting of blue knee pants and cap, black stockings and belt, and a light colored shirt.

There were two big bicycle events during the late 90's. One was a race on October 10, 1896, between Wausau and Stevens Point with Knowlton the meeting place. There were 6 relays, each

doing 5 to 6 miles, and it took 4 hours and 32 minutes to make the round trip. The other event was a mass bicycle ride to Plover on August 28, 1897. About 200 riders started from the Public Square, some made it only as far as McDill because of the new track beyond. Women and children were well represented in this event, and all had a fine time.

Also during the '90's horse racing, dog racing, and cock fighting were at their height. Stevens Point was long noted for its many fast race horses. In cock fighting the birds were fitted with steel spurs, and the evening there was to be a cock fight word got around to all who might be interested.

The Great District Fair was held in the fall of 1891, and it was pronounced a grand success. More than 10,000 people entered the grounds. The great event of the fair was horse racing. The first street fair was held July 20-25, 1903. It was a carnival company under the auspices of the local businessmen, and was held on the Main street between 1st Street and Strong's Avenue. One resident, living where the Post Office is today, put up a barbed wire fence to keep the carnival from trespassing on his property, but one night before the company moved in the wires were cut.

Vocal and instrumental concerts were arranged locally, and negro minstrels were held in the Grand Opera House just before the turn of the century. In August, 1895, a unique entertainment was given at the M. E. Church - a phonograph concert, the sounds being produced thru a large funnel on Edison's newly improved instrument.

Fraternal organizations, clubs, church groups, and others had various forms of entertainment for their own groups, many of which consisted of programs and singing, and many of these organizations had their singing groups, which were very popular in the little city. Picnics were held by these groups during the summer at which horseshoe and baseball were very popular games. The city seems to have delighted in baseball before the turn of the century for there is record of a Manitowoc team coming here in 1897 and being defeated by the Point team.

During the last 50 years many of the early forms of entertainment have persisted, and many such as roller and ice skating have come back to be great favorites. The movies came during this time, both silent and "talkies," as they were called in their early days. Great artists and others like Madam Schumann-Heink, Werrenrath, and the U. S. Marine Band performed in the city.



Sunday recreation on lumber raft on Wisconsin River. (Circa 1888)

BENNETT STUDIO



STEVENS POINT CELEBRATION june 29-july 2

ELECTED OFFICIALS

P. M. Vincent, Mayor
Norman J. Meshak, Comptroller
Fred A. Haas, Treasurer
Clara Trierweiler, City Clerk
Ralph A. Cook, City Assessor
Norman L. Wanta, City Attorney
Ernest G. Bruske, Supt. of Streets
Harry A. Groshek, Supt. of Parks
Dr. Frank Iber, Health Officer

ALDERMEN

H. L. Kurtzweil
Carlton Rustad
Raymond Rightsell
Raymond Wnuk
K. E. Hurlbut
Everett Morton
Leo Mancheski
Stanley Repinski
Felix Klesmith
Harold Cartwright
Chester C. Wojcik
John E. Shannon, Jr.
Edward Piotrowski

GENERAL PROGRAM*

*For detailed program, please see Schedule of Events Supplement. At the time of printing, the exact time and place of some events had not been scheduled. Additions and possible other changes will be reflected in the Supplement.

Sunday, June 29

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES DAY

100-Gun Salute at Noon
Outdoor Religious Observances
Whisker Judging Contest
Official "Kickoff" Dinner

Monday, June 30

LADIES' DAY

"Bustlette" Style Revue
Pageant Spectacular (First Showing)

Tuesday, July 1

KIDDIES' DAY

Kiddies Parade and Contest
Special Street Show
Pageant Spectacular (Second Showing)

Wednesday, July 2

AGRICULTURE DAY

Queen Contestants meet with Alice in Dairyland Princess
Mayors' Milking Contest
Pageant Spectacular (Third Showing)

1958...

CENTENNIAL ATION

ly 6, 1958.....

Thursday, July 3

PORTAGE COUNTY, GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

Special Street Show
Grand Centennial Ball

Friday, July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Coronation, Centennial Queen
Sports Show, Sports Events
Gigantic Fireworks Display

Saturday, July 5

STEVENS POINT DAY

Mammoth Parade
Aquatic Show, Water Events

Sunday, July 6

PIONEER AND HOMECOMING DAY

"Old Settlers" Picnic, Recognition
Whisker Showing Contest
Time Capsule Ceremony
Dedications
Street Dance

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Paul M. Vincent,
Mayor
Norman J. Meshak,
Comptroller
K. E. Hurlbut
H. L. Kurtzweil
Ray Bartkowiak
Rollin R. Mabie
Roy A. Menzel
Herman L. Toser
Chairman
Maggie and Scotty Swan
Promotion Directors



CARNIVAL — Every afternoon and Evening,
July 1st through 6th.

1958...



Home Guards Getting into Form



Company I — 4th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers — Spanish American War, 1898

Cavalry Troop in Training to Camp Douglas



Shoulder Arms!

... and stevens point went away to five wars

The Civil War, 1861-65, was Stevens Point's first military experience, and the city, especially the area around the Public Square, resounded to the roll of drums, patriotic speeches, recruiting officers and good-bye parties to departing volunteers. Recruitment of company-size units on a local level was the procedure followed and names were given these companies for interim identification such as the "Pinery Rifles", organized in 1861 and attached to the 7th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers. A Grand (Wisconsin) Rapids company called the "Evergreens" completed its recruiting drive here. The "Lyons Pinery Battery," a light artillery unit, known then as "flying artillery," completed recruiting here December 7, 1861, and elected its officers who responded by giving an oyster supper at the Avery House, northeast of the Public Square.

Another company, organized as the "Pinery Stars," went into camp with 50 men in December, 1862, but recruiting continued through the war.

The ladies did their bit in the Civil War and a "Soldiers Aid Society" was organized. When the "Lyons Pinery Battery" (actually the 8th Wisconsin Battery) returned home on leave of absence earned by re-enlisting, the ladies arranged a cotillion party and supper.

In 1898 a number of Stevens Pointers again went off to fight in the war with Spain. The majority of local men who saw service in this brief war joined Company I of the 4th Wisconsin, organized in Stevens Point, and the unit was sufficiently staffed by July 1, 1898, to permit transfer to Camp Douglas. In September the 4th Wisconsin was ordered south preparatory to joining the army of occupation in Cuba but orders were rescinded and the company remained at Camp Shipp, Anniston, Alabama, until mustered out in March of 1899. It lost a number of men to disease, particularly typhoid fever.

World War I, which America entered in April, 1917, again saw men from Stevens Point rallying to the colors. Some say that Russell "Pug" Moen was the first to join up, others say George Macnish was first. The honors were probably even. Troop I, of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, was the chief rallying point for volunteers in April, and was commanded by Capt. Charles W. Swan, 1st Lt. Russell Moen, and 2nd Lt. Lyman B. Park.

Late in June, 1917, Troop I, now 104 strong, entrained for Camp Douglas and federal service. Its cavalry identity was lost in September when the unit became part of Battery E, 120th Field Artillery, 32nd Division. Following further training at Waco, Texas, the 32nd Division sailed for France where it earned the sobriquet "Les Terribles" from the admiring French.

Following the departure of its militia or national guard, a Home Guard unit with 66 men was organized and began training. In the first draft, July 20, 1917, Charles C. Miller was the first Stevens Pointer selected. Among another group of draftees from Stevens Point in September 1917 was Romulus C. Berens, who became our first casualty and after whom the American Legion post was named. Disease, especially the "flu" epidemic of 1917-18, took a greater toll of men than enemy bullets, although a number of Stevens Pointers were killed in action on the battlefields of France.

When the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, James Scribner, who had joined the U.S. Navy in 1939, was already a Seaman 1st Class, and this explains why "Jim" was on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines on December 27, 1941, where he was killed in action, thus becoming the first Portage County man to die in World War II. The American Legion post was re-named the Berens-Scribner Post.

Many other Stevens Pointers were in uniform before Pearl Harbor for, unlike previous military emergencies, men were being called to the colors a year before the outbreak of war. Also unlike World War I, most men went directly into the Army, Navy or Marine Corps rather than through the National Guard. But the National Guard, nevertheless, played a major role. Two local units, Headquarters Battery and Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, 32nd Division, were placed in federal service October 15, 1940, with 189 officers and men. The division trained at Beauregard and Livingston, Louisiana and at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The 2nd Battalion, 120th F.A., was re-designated the 129th Field Artillery on January 16, 1942. The 32nd Division arrived at Port Adelaide, South Australia, May 14, 1942. They were inactivated early in 1956.

Poll Book

of an Election held at the House
of Phelps & Winter in the Town of
Middleton, Portage County, State of
Wisconsin, on Tuesday the 6th day of November
1849

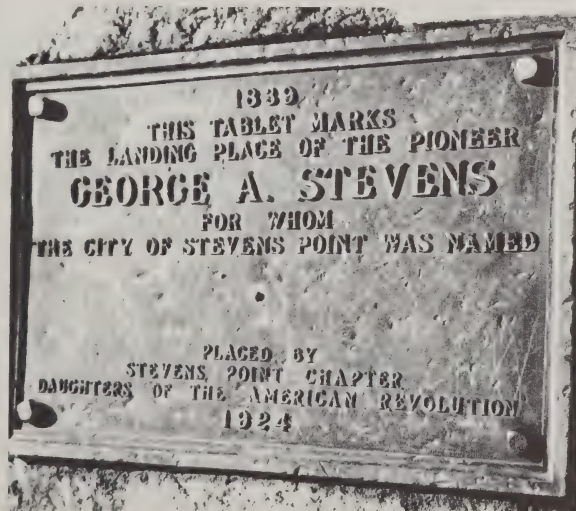
Voters Names		Voters Names	
1	Thomas Hinton	28	S C Justin
2	A Brawley	29	John Winslow
3	Nelson Nye	30	E W Coburn
4	John Debois	31	Simon Galt
5	Willis Moor	32	J B McKel
6	Reuben Miles	33	Chas B Rodman
7	Walter Smith	34	Nathaniel Mitchell
8	Samuel Benedict	35	Ray Brown
9	A W McCarty	36	Harold Sada
10	Daniel Gardner	37	N F Bliss
11	Louis Lamead	38	A Dougherty
12	Joseph Phelps	39	Charles Spoor
13	William Lowrey	40	W H Dickelt
14	Edward Carter	41	Seneca Harris
15	Thomas Dawson	42	R C McKinney
16	Francis Lammie	43	W R Dickinson
17	Thomas Hamman	44	L B Bennett
18	N C Robbarn	45	J Phillips
19	A McAlister	46	Jacob Berde
20	Robert Arthur	47	E Gooding
21	Geo Logan	48	B W French
22	Paul Gardner	49	Lewis Johnson
23	Isaac Harris	50	Lewis Lombard
24	Oliver Kevada	51	John Woda
25	McLennan Mitchell	52	Thomas Emerson
26	And Wallan	53	Jacob R. Mead
27	P L Bangle	54	F C Thomas

Poll list of Middleton Township election of 1849. Middleton later became Stevens Point. Election held at Phelps House Tavern (hotel) at foot of Main Street.

a century of progress for stevens point

One hundred years later we stand again on the bank of the Wisconsin River. The place is the same - the foot of Main Street - in Stevens Point. The waters of the Wisconsin have carried a century of history over the rapids, thru the Jaws of the Dells, and have been swept on into the Mississippi and into the Gulf and out to sea. Those waters carried the fortunes of the pioneers in logs, in cribs of lumber, and in the lives of the river men who met almost impossible hazards in running the "White Water." The forests disappeared, but still the river gave its strength to maintain the men and women who had become its adopted sons and daughters. It gave the power to turn its grist mills. Paper mills toward the close of the last century began to line its banks. It made possible the loaded cars of freight that made Stevens Point an enviable market. And finally, and perhaps rebelliously, it allowed its strength to be controlled and disciplined to the needs of men, to furnish endless quantities of electric power for the present city with its homes, its industries, its parks and streets and schools. For the city that is yet to be, the Wisconsin might well adopt the motto "We serve."

A marker at the end of Main Street stands on the spot where so many years ago George Stevens began the story of Stevens Point. The endless forests stretching to the north are gone, but the indestructible force that sparked the building of the Stevens Point of yesterday and today has become the heritage to build the Stevens Point of tomorrow.



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and its progress-minded people
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Today, as in the passing years, *Point Special* is called for by folks in the Central Wisconsin area more often than any other beer. Such sustained popularity is the result of experience and careful, meticulous brewing according to the most exacting standards of control.

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Aged Naturally and Slowly to Suit Your Taste!*

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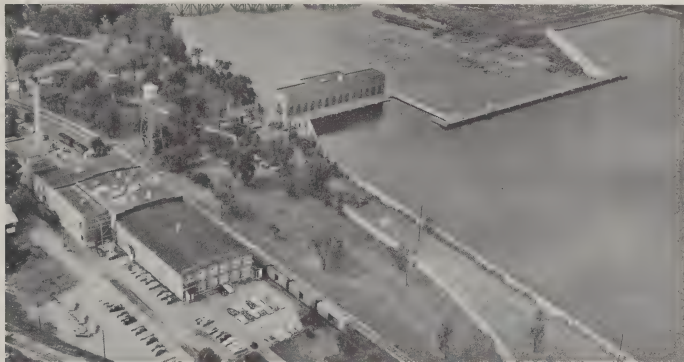
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Stevens Point

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<p>POINT BAKERY 200 Main St. DI 4-0893</p>	<p>SMART SHOP EXCLUSIVE <i>Ladies' Wearing Apparel</i> STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN</p>
<p>PEICKERT'S MARKET 451 Main Street Phones: DI 4-9440, DI 4-9441</p>	<p><i>Karp's Bootery</i> of Stevens Point's Modern Public Square</p>
<p><i>Best Wishes!</i> FOX THEATRE</p>	<p>BRILL'S <i>"Gifts that Last"</i> 111 N.E. Public Square</p>
<p>West Side Implement, Inc. 138 W. Clark St.</p>	<p>TORK HARDWARE Dial DI. 4-4677 122 So. Second Street Stevens Point, Wisconsin</p>
<p>MAIN STREET CAFE Home Cooking and Baking 414 Main Street</p>	<p>Ray's Standard Service 301 College Avenue Stevens Point, Wis. Phone DI 4-9870</p>
<p>MINT BAR 120 So. Second Street <i>Proprietor . . . Walter Bungert</i></p>	<p>Square Deal Market RETAILERS OF FRESH AND SMOKED MEATS AND FISH 116 S. E. Public Square, Stevens Point, Wis.</p>
<p>BILL'S SHOE STORE 449 Main St. Stevens Point, Wis.</p>	<p>Jurgella's U-Save Food Store 116 So. Second Street STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN</p>

CONSOLIDATED HAS A STAKE IN PORTAGE COUNTY

Today approximately 470 men and women operate two Consolidated paper mills in Portage County producing useful products essential to modern living in America. We take great pride in having had a part in the first century's history of the County and look forward to the next 100 years with continued confidence and optimism.



*Stevens Point Division, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Products: Waxing, Tissue, and Manifold Papers*



*Wisconsin River Division, Whiting, Wisconsin
Products: Enamel Printing Papers*

CONSOLIDATED WATER POWER & PAPER COMPANY

Millers

*Women's and Children's
Wearing Apparel*

409 Main Street

AL-CHROMA PAINT COMPANY

("Re-Roof with a Paint Brush")

Salutes Stevens Point

... The support of its citizens and the cooperation of the Industrial Development Corp. is gratefully acknowledged

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.

*Congratulates
Stevens Point
on its
Centennial*



Representing 189 Years of Service are these Montgomery Ward employees, from left to right: Irene Hewitt, Esther Krueger, Al Haugen, Irene Bennett, R. S. Johnson (Store Manager), I. Duchrow, Emily Katzmark, Leonard Rueckert, Lillian Stepaniak.

Portesi's Food

— The only —

Italian Food Spot in Town

Spaghetti

Mostaccioli

Ravioli

Drunken Chicken

Steak & Chops

Pizza

— at —

PAUL'S BAR

1200 No. 2nd Street

Phone DI 4-4843

"One of Stevens Point's pioneer firms!"



**We are proud
of
Stevens Point**

*together we
have grown

*together we will
continue to
progress



Our 63rd year . . . furs exclusively

"Always . . .

A Step Ahead of Tomorrow"

Campbell's

For almost 24 years we have "lived ahead of our time." For ours is the responsibility of foreseeing fashion trends months in the future, so that when the trend becomes reality, our stocks will be a true reflection of your wishes for the "newest and finest."

Shopping Center of Stevens Point

***Congratulations,
Stevens Point***

JOURNAL PRINTING CO.

*Commercial Printers and
Publishers of the*

Stevens Point Daily Journal

SHIPPY SHOE STORE

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

Since 1914

NORTHERN AUTO SUPPLY CO.

— Distributors of —

AUTOMOBILE SUPPLIES
AND EQUIPMENT

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

Oterlee's

Jewelry — Gifts

Expert Jewelry & Watch Repairing

442 Main St. Tel. DI 4-2584

WELTMAN'S

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STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

Fast Color and Black and White Photo Finishing
Complete Line of Photographic Equipment
Easy Time Payments
Camera Repair

TUCKER CAMERA SHOP

"Where experts show you how"

201 Strong's Ave., Whiting Hotel Building
Stevens Point, Wis. Phone DI 4-6224

In tribute to the past, with every
good wish for the future — congratulations
Stevens Point, a wonderful town.

Westenberger's Drugs

Wally's Men's Store

*Finest in Men's Clothing
and
Formal Rental*

109 N.E. Public Square

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.

*Paints, Varnishes, Lacquers, Leads, Oils, Enamels
Brushes and Painters' Specialties*

312 Main Street

Stevens Point, Wis.

Ray Peck, Mgr.



1897



1958



Furniture Corporation

FINE FURNITURE FOR CHILDREN SINCE 1897

New York

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Chicago

Toccoa, Georgia

Compliments of

**Seven-Up
Bottling Company Inc.**

Phone: DI 4-6040

ALOIS FIRKUS

Carlot or Truckload Shippers of

WISCONSIN POTATOES

114 So. 2nd Street

We're Proud of
Stevens Point and Its
100 Years of Growth and Progress

THE WILSHIRE SHOP

440 Main St.

You'll Like Our Friendly,
Courteous Service

Stevens Point Concrete Company, Inc.

CONCRETE, CINDER, GARYLITE BLOCKS

- Patio Block
- Glass Block
- Plyco Windows
- Chimney Block
- Mortar Cement
- Steel Sash

210 Patch Street

Dial DI 4-2062

Ellis Stone & Construction Company

Office East on Highway 66 at City Limits

CONTRACTORS

General Building Contractors



We have Five Stone Quarries

Call DI 4-4552

Nils Anderson DI 4-5736

Helge Carlson DI 4-6847

Happy Birthday to our City
on it's 100th Anniversary

VETTER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Now in it's 65th year

*Serving Stevens Point Home Builders Since 1893
with lumber and building materials.*

Manufacturers of "Weather Snug" windows
and other millwork.

Congratulations!

KURZESKI DISTRIBUTING CO.

Distributors of

*. . . Pabst Blue Ribbon
. . . Chief Oshkosh
Beer*

123 Park Street

DI 4-5985

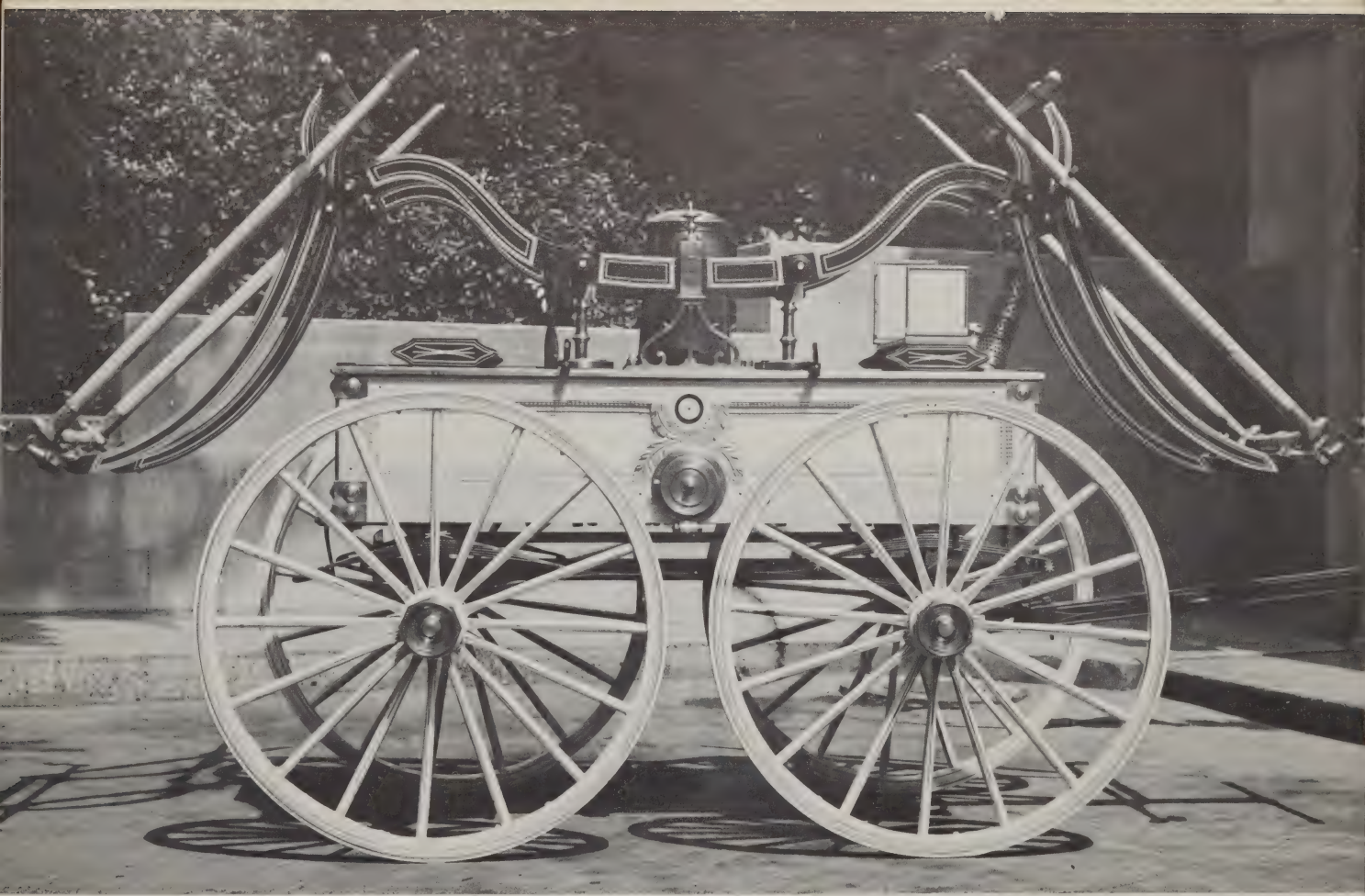
WANTA'S

***Recreation Bar
and Bowling Lanes***

Best in Bowling
Choice Liquors

CONGRATULATIONS
STEVENS POINT —
MAY YOUR CENTENNIAL
BE A HAPPY ONE!

Downtown Stevens Point



Fire King No. 1 — This was first pumper for the City of Chicago before Chicago was a city. Purchased by Chicago in 1835 and sold to Stevens Point in 1860's. Recovered in 1922 from Coddington Marsh and returned to Chicago Historical Society where it was restored. (Circa 1957)



Berens—Scribner

Post No. 6

of the



AMERICAN LEGION

40 Years Young

Salutes and Serves

STEVENS POINT

A Hundred Years Old

1858—1958

. . . And Stronger Than Ever!

THE PALM GARDEN

Bar and Cafe

Delicious Foods . . .

Delightful Drinks . . .

Your Hosts: Elmer and Virgil Goesch

419 Clark St.

BERNIE & ATZ

BAR

Come See — Paul Bunyan's
Rod 'N Reel

303 No. Second St.

HELEN FIEREK

— • —
*Exclusive Millinery
and Accessories*

119 Strong's Ave.

DI 4-6942

BARTIG'S

Shurfine Headquarters

. . . Foods . . .

The White Store on the
Public Square — Largest
Shopping Center in Wisconsin



IT'S TRUE . . .

*We haven't been here for a century, but we expect
to be here from now on! WE LIKE IT HERE!*

FAIRWAY

5c to \$5.00 VARIETY STORE

H. H. Jarantowski, Mgr.

512 Main Street

CONGRATULATIONS STEVENS POINT

INSURANCE

LIFE • AUTO • FIRE

HOSPITALIZATION

WALTON MURAT

and

DICK BERNDT

Kuhl Bldg. — 401½ Main St.
STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

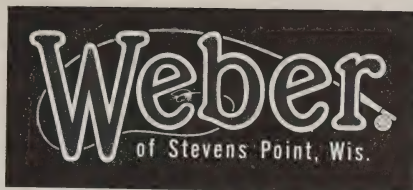
Phone: DI 4-2222

Through the years . . .

GWIDT'S DRUG STORE

for a full measure of health

ON THE SQUARE



MAKERS OF QUALITY TACKLE SINCE 1896

THIS COMPANY had its beginning 62 years ago . . . in 1896 . . . when Carrie Frost started tying flies. In 1920 she sold her interests to *The Frost Fishing Tackle Co.*, a new organization with O. L. Weber as manager. Mr. Weber resigned in 1921 to establish *The Weber Lifelike Fly Co.* which in 1926 was merged with the Frost company, consolidating both firms under the Weber name.

Confidence in Weber tackle spread rapidly among fishermen everywhere . . . and in 1928 a modern two-story building was erected.

E. C. Wotruba became President in 1944, Mr. Weber remaining as Chairman of the Board. In 1946, with the line expanding to include tackle for many other types of fishing, a large addition to the plant virtually doubled its size to over 40,000 feet of floor space. Mr. Weber retired from active participation in 1947 when controlling interest was acquired by Mr. Wotruba.

Entering the plastics field with a number of diversified products, a subsidiary — *Weber Plastics, Inc.* — was formed in 1957.

WEBER SALUTES STEVENS POINT ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY! IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO GROW WITH IT 62 OF THE 100 YEARS



WEBER TACKLE COMPANY, STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

Formerly THE WEBER LIFELIKE FLY CO.

'IF WEBER MAKES IT — A FISH TAKES IT'

SERVING STEVENS POINT

for

27 Years



Footwear for the Entire Family

Commercial

Industrial

Aerial

And Modern Portraiture

The PHILLIP Studio

One Ten Water St.

Stevens Point, Wis.

BOYER'S

*Sport — Marine
and Gun Shop*

1623 So. Church Street

Stevens Point

Wimme Sand & Gravel

1041 Jefferson Street

TRUCKING — DREDGING — IRRIGATION

Pit: Arnott

DI 4-6396

Garage: Plover

DI 4-2534

Residence: DI 4-2535

HOT FISH SHOP

and

HOTEL ST. GEORGE



FOR RESERVATIONS

DI 4-4252

*Since 1928 we have
served this community
with QUALITY BEVERAGES*



QUALITY BEVERAGE CO.

245 Union St.

Stevens Point, Wis.



*THE FUTURE BELONGS
TO THOSE WHO
PREPARE FOR IT*

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
salutes Stevens Point on 100 years of progress.

1858-1958

The PRUDENTIAL
Insurance Company
of America
324 College Avenue
STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

Stevens Point Staff

Arch M. Stenz
Staff Manager
Richard L. Cerney
Edward S. Hoppa
Margaret Dineen
Philip C. Graboski



**FILL UP
WITH
PHILLIPS**

DELZELL OIL COMPANY

**KNOWN FOR QUALITY
PRODUCTS, FRIENDLY
SERVICE**

*Call the Fuel Oil Number
DI 4-5360*



80

Years of Progress

The Copps Company

1878-1958



KUHL'S

Are Acknowledged Leaders of Low Prices

. . . on . . .

Dry Goods of Every
Description

Qualities and Prices Guaranteed

401-403 Main St.

Stevens Point,

Wis.

EMMONS

STATIONERY & OFFICE SUPPLY COMPANY

Proud to have served Central Wisconsin
Business with the finest

Office Machines

Office Supplies

Office Furniture

— For over 18 Years —

A growing business in a growing city

Artistic Bedroom Furniture

By

*Joerns Bros. Furniture
Company*

Stevens Point,
Wisconsin

LINOLEUM

CARPETING

WINDOW SHADES

HOME FURNISHINGS, Inc.

121 No. 2nd Street

Stevens Point, Wis.

EXPERT FLOOR COVERING SERVICE

IN STEVENS POINT FOR
OVER THIRTY YEARS.

PROGRESSING WITH STEVENS POINT



Former Building — Present Location

TOTAL ASSETS — 1893

\$159,966.26



Present Building

TOTAL ASSETS — 1958

\$10,704,674.04

YOURS FOR YOUR EVERY NEED

On this Centennial occasion, as always, we wish to thank the many fine folks of Stevens Point and Central Wisconsin for their continued confidence in us, and respectfully solicit the opportunity of serving you during the coming Century.

THE 
CITIZENS
 **NATIONAL BANK**
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Makers of Mastercraft Paints

**Badger Paint
and Hardware Stores
Inc.**

317 Main Street

Joe Strelke, Mgr.

**Robert L. Berard
and Associates**

Insurance — Real Estate

Robert L. Berard . . .

John Galecki . . .

Neal Johnson . . .

The Largest

Religious Goods

House in

Central

Wisconsin



150 100 THIRD ST

STEVENS POINT, WIS

SINCE 1896 **FROST** HAS MEANT **FLIES**

FISH FIGHT FOR

FROST FLIES

G. W. FROST & SONS — STEVENS POINT, WIS.



Hein Insurance Agency

Since 1897

Insurance and Surety Bonds

Special Farm Insurance Dept.

Real Estate

Hein Insurance is Good

Phone DI 4-9000

313½ Main St.

THE FIRST ELECTRIC
LIGHTING PLANT IN
WISCONSIN WAS
INSTALLED IN STEVENS
POINT IN 1881 TO LIGHT
THE SHOPS OF THE
WISCONSIN CENTRAL
RAILROAD



WISCONSIN
PUBLIC SERVICE
CORPORATION

Always first quality —

Your Modern



*growing with
Stevens Point*

SHOP PENNEY'S . .

you'll live better, you'll save!

Happy Birthday,
City of Stevens Point



Stevens Point Chamber of Commerce

*Working to make "Our Town"
the best in which to live,
to work, to play, to pray.*

Sorenson's Floral Shop

*. . . Our Flowers Are
Green-House Fresh*

Stevens Point, Wis.

DI 4-2244



Ten years of service
to Stevens Point

*"Dress Right . . . You Can't
Afford Not To!"*

111 Water St.

Phone DI 4-9403

*Established in
1896*

. . . and Still Going Strong

Jacobs and Raabe

Watches . . . Diamonds . . . Jewelry

RCA Victor and Magnavox

TV — Radio — Hi Fi

Expert Repairing in All Our Lines

BREITENSTEIN COMPANY

217 Clark St.

Phone DI 4-9100

- ◀ Frigidaire Appliances
- ◀ Motorola TV
- ◀ Farm Machinery
- ◀ Building Supplies
- ◀ Feed — Seed

Over 40 Years of Dependable Service

- ★ Accident and Health
- ★ Compensation
- ★ Automobile Liability

- ★ Plate Glass Liability
- ★ Dwelling Insurance
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- ★ Fire Insurance
- ★ Cargo
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- ★ Truck Liability
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KOSTKA INSURANCE AGENCY

113 N. E. Public Square

Phone DI 4-4477

INSURANCE WITH INTEGRITY SINCE 1922

FRANKS HARDWARE

117 North Second Street

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

BLAISE SERVICE STATION

TIRE SALES — REPAIRING & RECAPPING

AUTO REPAIRING & MOBIL PRODUCTS

CAR WASHING AND POLISHING

ELLIS AND STRONGS

PHONE DI 4-4721

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

COPPS FUEL & HEATING COMPANY

Coal — Fuel Oil — Oil Stokers & Gas Furnaces

Phone DIamond 4-2210 — 141 Main St. — Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Compliments of

Northwest Liquor Co.

129 Clark Street

and

Mid State Distributors

Distributors of Schlitz Beer

213 So. Second Street

Stevens Point

Wisconsin

Luncheon Feature

Every day during our Centennial Week



You might have a point there, but I have an idea we could build a better Point on this spot. Thus STEVENS POINT was born.



Philadelphia Pepper Pot Soup	5¢
Boiled Beef with Horse Radish	15¢
Potatoes in Beef Juice	2¢
Fresh Vegetables	3¢
Old Fashioned Cream Slaw	5¢
Home Made Whole Wheat Bread	2¢
Lots of Home Style Butter	3¢
Schooner of Point Beer	5¢
Coffee and Cream	5¢
Apple Cake	5¢

Sky Club

The Quality Store

Ladies Apparel

Exclusive Styles for Juniors, Misses & Women

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Your HOME Should Come FIRST

We Specialize in:

BEDROOM & LIVING ROOM FURNITURE &
KITCHEN SETS

MIRMAN'S

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

DI 4-4814



The Up-Town

TOYLAND

CHINA

426 MAIN STREET

GLASS

GIFTS

TOYS

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

POLLY FROCKS

Headquarters for . . .

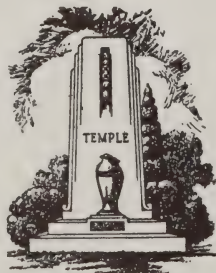
Ladies' Apparel

416 Main Street

COOPER INSURANCE AGENCY

304 Clark Street

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN



Haertel Monument Service

Designers and Manufacturers of Fine Monuments

Stevens Point, Wis.

Established 1901

1500 Memorials in Stock

We Have Marked 80,000 Graves

. . . For the Guest

. . . The Best

. . . In Food and Rest

HOTEL WHITING

Strong's Avenue at Clark Street
(A block south of Main Street)

THE DINING ROOM - THE COFFEE SHOP - THE MURAL BAR*

*The painting which appears on the cover of this Centennial Souvenir Book is by E. John Pfiffner, staff artist of the Chicago Natural History Museum, and a native of Stevens Point. Be sure to see the *original* when you visit the famous

MURAL BAR

*It's
Good Business
To
Patronize
Our
Advertisers*

CLOVERLAND ICE CREAM AND BUTTER

Stevens Point Dairy Products Co.

215 So. Second St.

Greetings
and
Good Wishes
from

Barbers' Union

Local #774

STEVENS POINT



Tornado of 1908 — Area between Elk and Strongs Avenue. This was the most disastrous storm in the history of the city.



Flood of 1911 — Portage Street — Sections of Stevens Point were flooded several times prior to the control of the Wisconsin River. The largest of these occurred in 1880



Mystery Picture — Alleged to be "Main Street — way back when". Date unknown.

Main Street looking east. Early 20's.





Proud of the past . . .

The people of Hardware Mutuals, over the past 47 years in Stevens Point, have shared the work with others in building the community . . . as well as our company. With more than 600 people working and living here, our company interests are tied deeply to community interests.

We are proud, therefore, of the progress of Stevens Point. We are proud that, through the growth of our business and the civic service of our people, we have shared in this progress.

*L*ooking to the future . . .



Stevens Point and Portage County have basic advantages that are yet to be fully developed. Central location, water, abundant land, excellent labor, cooperative people, transportation, communications — to name a few. There is confidence — and eagerness — in looking to the future.

Hardware Mutuals®



THE CENTRAL CO., INC.

310 Crosby Avenue

Stevens Point, Wis.

Wholesale Distributors

Hardware . . . Electrical Supplies . . . Roofing

Our expansion over the years is reflected
in our new ultra-modern plant. It is a tribute
to a community which has helped make it so.



From 1898

To 1958

"Where Craftsmanship Predominates," as it has for the past 60 years!

WORZALLA PUBLISHING COMPANY,

1515 JEFFERSON STREET
STEVENS POINT WISCONSIN

3430 WEST NORTH AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Public square — Trading center for the Stevens Point farming community. (Circa 1880)

1858

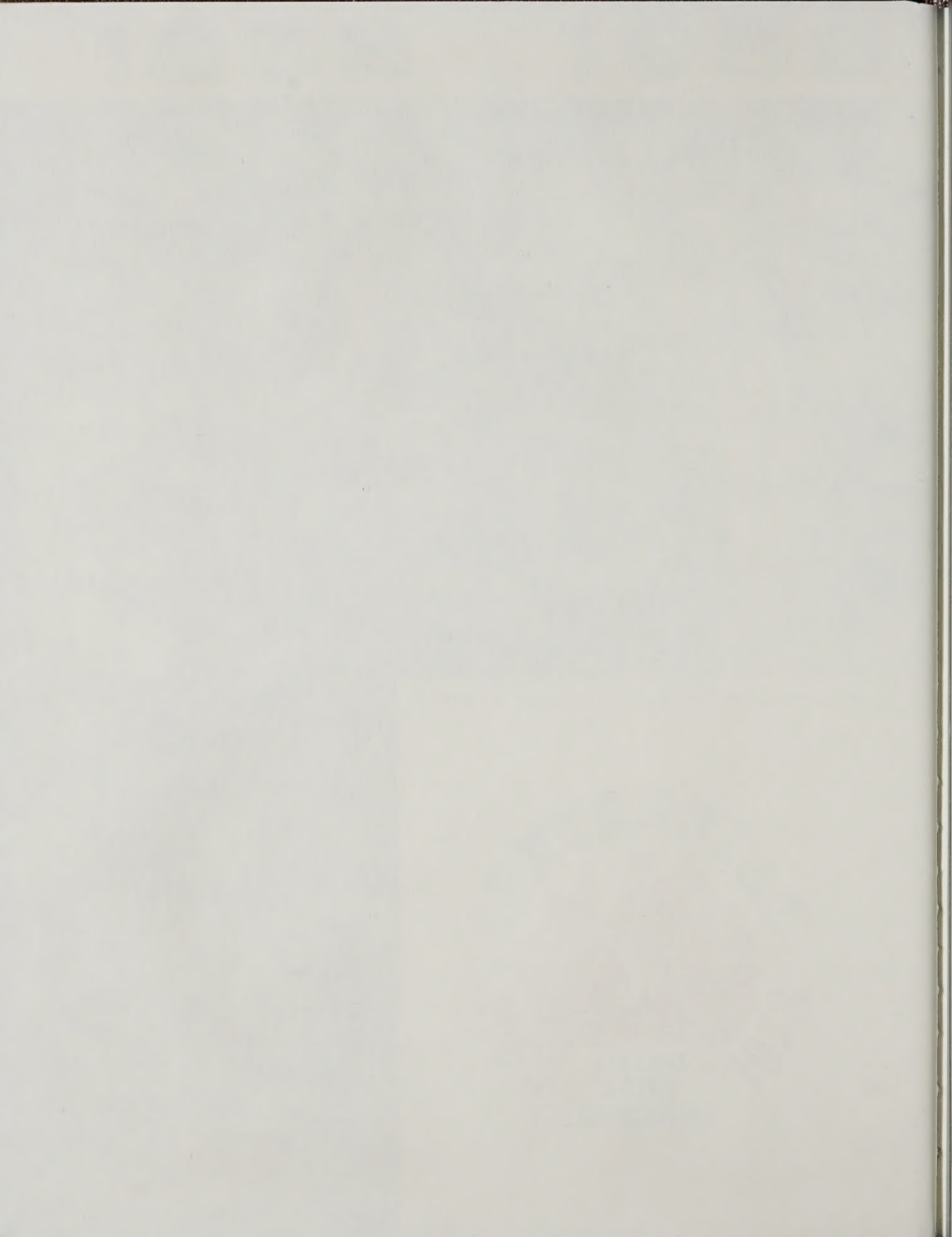
1958



Cover, from Hotel Whiting murals by E. John Pfiffner, adapted by Marvin J. Pribek







12/23/2015

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